

## Leadership in the Field of Health Informatics Awarded to Prof. Andre Kushniruk

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**Prof. Andre Kushniruk** has been awarded the 2012 COACH “*Leadership in the Field of Health Informatics Award*” at the seventh annual Canadian Health Informatics Awards (CHIA) Gala ([www.healthinformaticsawards.ca](http://www.healthinformaticsawards.ca)) in Toronto on November 7, 2012. This award recognizes “an individual's outstanding ongoing contributions as a thought leader, both nationally and internationally, to advance Canadian health informatics (HI) or Canadian telehealth.”

Prof. Kushniruk was selected for the significant contributions he has made in health informatics (HI) usability in Canada. Dr. Kushniruk, Professor, School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria, is described as the “premier go-to expert” on HI usability. Described as a “trail-blazer”, his pre-eminent work in usability engineering in health care has made a significant impact not only in Canada but internationally as well.

“Andre has brought us into the age of inexpensive, doable Usability Assessment.” stated Dominic Covey, President of NIHI. “This is a crucial capability that must be applied to every system during its development and before it is put into the hands of providers, patients and others! He has enabled us to be truly competent as professionals.

Dr. Kushniruk has been a tireless promoter of health informatics as a career in Canada, and has led the development of educational strategies, including promoting undergraduate health informatics education, web-based distance education up to the Master's level, and work on design of a new flexible PhD program to increase the number of trained professionals in the field.

“The COACH Award acknowledges his high level of achievement in our field in Canada.” said Shirley Fenton, Vice-President of NIHI. “NIHI is very proud of Andre’s world-class work and accomplishments.”

Dr. Kushniruk conducts research in a number of areas including evaluation of the effects of technology, human-computer interaction in health care and other domains as well as cognitive science. His work is known internationally and he has published widely in the area of health informatics. He focuses on developing new methods for the evaluation of information technology and studying human-computer interaction in health care and he has been a key researcher on a number of national and international collaborative projects. His work includes the development of novel methods for conducting video analysis of computer users and he is currently extending this research to remote study of e-health applications and advanced information technologies, including computerized patient record systems. Dr. Kushniruk has held academic positions at a number of universities and he has taught courses in areas such as human-computer interaction, database management and systems analysis and design. He holds undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Biology, as well as a M.Sc. in Computer Science from McMaster University and a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from McGill University in Canada. Dr. Kushniruk is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine, the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York, Aalborg University Department of Development and Planning. He is a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics and a member of the National Institutes of Health Informatics.



**About NIHI:** NIHI ([www.nihi.ca](http://www.nihi.ca)) is a Canada-wide, virtual institute of institutes bringing together experts in Health Informatics. NIHI serves as a catalyst, coordinator and facilitator that assists in defining, fostering and bringing together initiatives dedicated to HI research and education.