

Request for name change

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1. Request

We propose to change the name of our Department from “Medical Informatics” to “Biomedical Informatics”.

2. Need

Our Mission Statement reads (additions if approved):

The mission of the Department of (Bio)Medical Informatics at the University of Utah is to improve health outcomes through information systems (including health, economic, and satisfaction results for consumers and providers) in both the private and public sectors of the healthcare and public health systems. To accomplish this mission, the Department assumes three major responsibilities:

1. To educate (bio)medical and public health professionals, (bio)medical informaticists, and the healthcare and public health communities in the field of (bio)medical informatics.
2. To promote and conduct research to broaden (bio)medical informatics knowledge.
3. To serve health informatics professionals and consumers by participating in relevant professional societies, editorial boards, and continuing education programs, while maintaining (bio)medical informatics leadership in the community.

Our major goal is to train graduate students to develop broad expertise in Informatics in medical, public health, and genetic application areas. We are supported in part by a National Library of Medicine Training Grant. Our Division offers both PhD and MS degrees in four different tracks; a post-baccalaureate certificate will also be added to our Department and has already passed the first round of approval at the Graduate Council level.

1. Health Information Systems
2. Medical Imaging
3. Public Health Informatics
4. Genetic Epidemiology/Bioinformatics

All tracks emphasize integration of Informatics tools and practices to improve health and health care, but are diverse in training. The Department now represents a wider field of Informatics that is continuing to expand. We feel that the name “Department of Biomedical Informatics” better reflects our mission and our practical emphases. The current name “Department of Medical Informatics” does not adequately represent the wide-ranging interests and expertise of our many faculty. Changing the name to the “Department of Biomedical Informatics” is more in line with the Department mission and the academic and research focus of our faculty.

The following definition of Biomedical informatics comes from a JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association) paper stemming from an ACMI (American College of Medical Informatics) retreat: “The committee viewed **Biomedical Informatics** as an interdisciplinary field, combining basic informational and computational sciences with the application domains of biomedicine including health care, biological research, and education... Biomedicine is a broad application domain spanning all health professional practice (including public health and bioimaging), basic biological research, clinical research, education of future and current health professionals and the administration of practice, research and education.” JAMIA 2004, 11(3):167-172.

The name “Biomedical Informatics” more clearly and completely represents our Department than does Medical Informatics.

3. Institutional Impact

We do not anticipate any significant impact due to this suggested name change. We have good relationships with other departments within the School of Medicine, throughout Health Sciences, and with main campus. There is no other Department with which any confusion could be introduced by this change. We do not anticipate that class enrollment will be affected. A name that reflects the wider interests of our Department may actually promote our department among students and when establishing collaborative relationships with colleagues outside of the School of Medicine. Our name change will not affect any administrative structures, faculty positions, or physical facilities.

4. Costs

We anticipate minimal costs if any, upon the Department, School of Medicine, and University. At the Department level a name change will require new letterhead, envelopes, and business cards. Since we are moving into a new location, we have to purchase updated letterhead and envelopes anyway. Inserting a new name will not alter that cost. New business cards can be produced at minimal cost to the Department.

At the School of Medicine level, our name would have to be changed in the School web site and brochures. Changing the name on the web site would be a simple matter of electronic editing that could be incorporated during regular web site updates.

At the University level, our new name would have to be updated in the General Catalog both electronically (on the web) and in the printed catalog. The electronic update would be cost free since it could be done as part of a regularly scheduled web site update. The update to the printed version could happen at the next regularly scheduled reprint.

5. Practice elsewhere

The switch from Medical Informatics to Biomedical Informatics has been widely supported in our field as other institutions similarly expand the focus of their programs. Listed below are the names of some other peer programs and departments, including all of the 18 also involved in the NLM training grant program:

Departments:

*Department of Biomedical Informatics (Columbia)

*Department of Biomedical Informatics (Vanderbilt)

*Department of Medical Education and Biomedical Informatics (U Wash)

Program in Biomedical and Health Informatics

- *Department of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology (OHSU)
- *Department of Health Management and Informatics (Missouri)
Biomedical and Health Informatics Research Training Program
- *Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Epidemiology (Univ of South Carolina)
[does not include medical, nursing or other health informatics]
- Department of Biomedical Informatics (Ohio State University)
- Department of Biomedical Informatics (Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences)

Programs:

- *Center for Biomedical Informatics (Pittsburgh)
- *Biomedical Informatics Training Program (Stanford)
- *Yale Center for Medical Informatics
Biomedical Informatics Research Training Program
- *Program in Biomedical Informatics (Harvard and MIT)
- *Division of Health Sciences Informatics (Johns Hopkins) (MS in Health Sciences Informatics)
- *Regenstrief Institute (Program in Medical Informatics, limited to MD's)
- *Computation and Informatics in Biology and Medicine (University of Wisconsin)
- *Health Informatics Program (University of Minnesota)
in the Dept of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology
- *Mayo Laboratory of Biomedical Informatics
- *Program in Computational Biology and Medicine (Rice University, Baylor and U Texas)
- *Biomedical Informatics Research Training (U Cal Irvine)
in Institute for Genomics and Bioinformatics
- *Imaging-Based Medical Informatics (UCLA) in Dept of Radiological Sciences
- Biomedical Informatics (and certificates in Healthcare Informatics) (UMDMJ and NJIT)
- Biomedical Informatics (University of Chicago)
- Biomedical Informatics Facility (University of Pennsylvania)

**NLM Training Grant Funding*

6. Changes, if any in names of precise degrees offered.

The name of the degrees offered through our Department would change from "... in Medical Informatics" to "... in Biomedical Informatics." Students already in the program at the time of the change will have the option of keeping the former degree name, if they wish.

7. Changes, if any, in catalog prefix descriptions, course designations, etc.

To reflect our name change we would request to change our catalog course prefix from the current MDINF to BMINF at the next catalog update cycle.