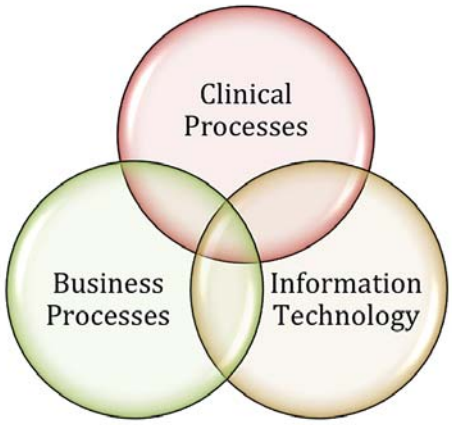
Clinical Informatics

Charles Safran, MD, Chief

Henry Feldman, MD, utilizes an ipad to help a patient understand her diagnosis.

The Division of Clinical Informatics celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2010. Clinical Informatics is an integrative discipline that explores the use of the computer in medicine together with the intersection between clinical processes, information technology and business processes. The goals of the Division are to improve the quality and



reduce the cost of medical care, to improve the relationship between doctor and patient, to enhance medical education and to contribute to the emerging science of biomedical informatics.

2009–2010 HIGHLIGHTS

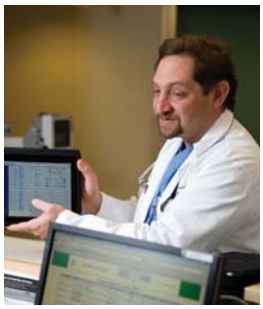
Electronic Patient Records

The Division pioneered the electronic health record (EHR) in use at BIDMC called the Online Medical Record (OMR), and has developed a new EHR called "ReportWriter" which is a cloud-based electronic health record, customized for the workflows for chronic disease care in the ambulatory setting in the Middle East. This new EHR built with Google tools enables the "medical home" and population-based "accountable care."

Patient-Centered Computing

Patient-computer dialogue, the use of computer-based programs conducted over the Internet to interview patients about their medical histories, remains a central focus of the Division's efforts. Together with the Division of General

Medicine we are part of a multicenter clinical trial in which doctors' primary care notes are shared with patients via PatientSite, BIDMC's secure electronic patient portal, to determine the effect on the doctor-patient relationship, the workload of the doctor and the satisfaction of the patient.



Larry Nathanson, MD

With support from the National Library of Medicine, the Division will be "consuming digital crumbs" from our various computer systems to conduct advanced social networking analysis of care team structure and function. Digital crumbs are data from the elaborate audit logs or electronic signatures in our computer systems.

Educational Innovation

The Division has been instrumental in initiating a new masters program in Biomedical Informatics at Harvard Medical School and leading two new HMS courses – Introduction to Biomedical Informatics and Clinical Informatics. These course offerings and our proactive fellowship program will allow BIDMC to be accredited for the soon-to-be-announced sub-specialty board in Clinical Informatics. Dr. Warner V. Slack, together with other physicians from BIDMC, teaches a course for Harvard College undergraduates titled "The Quality of Health Care in America."

Warner Slack, MD, leading a conference with visitors from the Middle East.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Feldman H, Reti S, Kaldany E, Safran C. Deployment of a highly secure clinical data repository in an insecure international environment. *Stud Health Technol Inform* 2010; 160:869-73.

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Bartfield JK, Ojehomon N, Husky KW, Davis RB, Wee CC. Preferences and self-efficacy for diet modification among primary care patients. *Obesity* 2010; 18:430-2.

Halamka JD. Making the most of federal health information technology regulations. *Health Aff (Millwood)* 2010; 29:596-600.

FACULTY

Howard L. Bleich, MD
Roger B. Davis, ScD
Meghan M. Dierks, MD
Henry J. Feldman, MD
Stan N. Finkelstein, MD
James Gray, MD
John D. Halamka, MD, MS
Steven E. Locke, MD
Alexa T. McCray, PhD
Larry Nathanson, MD
David M. Rind, MD
Charles Safran, MD, MS
Daniel Z. Sands, MD, MPH
Warner V. Slack, MD

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	Direct	Indirect
Federal	544,772	215,163
Non Federal	30,642	4,358