

# Designing Web Services for Individuals Faced with Mental Health Challenges

A Sara Fine Institute Symposium

May 4, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. • UPLAC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

The [Sara Fine Institute](#) (SFI) is pleased to sponsor a one day symposium for current and potential affiliates of the Institute to meet and discuss research opportunities in the area of web site design for individuals with mental illness, in particular severe mental illness, or chronic brain disease. In line with the SFI's goal of examining the ways technology affects our personal interactions, communications, and relationships, the symposium will examine efforts at Pitt over the last several years and develop an agenda for funding proposals. The symposium schedule is as follows:

- **Usable Websites for Individuals with Severe Mental Illness**
  - Armando Rotondi
- **Web Portals for Information Access by Patients with Late-Life Mood Disorders**
  - Ellen Detlefsen
- **Discussion of Approaches to Research on Website Usability**
  - Group Discussion

## Working Lunch

- **WMMD, a Tool for Construction of Medical Research Websites**
  - Jonathan Grady
- **Institute Research Funding Opportunities**
  - Group Discussion

## About the speakers:

**Armando Rotondi** has conducted studies of the impact of web site based interventions on caregivers for and individuals who had suffered traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Additional studies have been done related to TBI in children, childhood cancer, adult cancer and individuals with schizophrenia. In the work on schizophrenia, he explored the particular needs of individuals with schizophrenia or severe mental illness (SMI) more generally. He developed guidelines for web accessibility for this population, or more generally, for individuals with cognitive impairment.

**Ellen Detlefsen** works in the areas of bio-medical and health sciences information, medical informatics, and resources and services for special populations such as patients and health care consumers, and the aging and their caregivers. Recent publications by Dr. Detlefsen include articles on World Wide Web materials for vulnerable populations. She regularly teaches workshops on web-based information that can reliably be recommended by mental health professionals.

**Jonathan Grady** is a Ph.D. student in the School of Information Sciences and has worked with Dr. Rotondi in website design and management. He has also worked with Dr. Spring to develop a tool that automates the design of medical research websites. The goal of the tool is to make it possible for medical researchers to quickly and efficiently design websites that meet HIPAA privacy needs, that are structured for optimum data gathering, and that provide the components needed for basic medical intervention research.

Dr. Michael Spring (<mailto:spring+@pitt.edu>) will be the symposium chair. **Please register by April 15, 2007. Space is limited.** Send e-mail Brianna Stauffer (<mailto:Brianna.stauffer@gmail.com>) to sign up for this event.



**The Sara Fine Institute**

