

# Seeking Health Care Advances

By BizVoice Staff

## Four Letters, Big Information Impact

A late 2013 announcement that Beacon Health System is now the third owner of MHIN (formerly known as the Michiana Health Information Network) serves as a reminder about the critical importance of data and collaboration.

South Bend-based MHIN was in the health information business before it became popular. With founders Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center and The Medical Foundation, it was incorporated in 1998. A year later, it implemented a system for clinical professionals to view patients' results online. In 2002, its first electronic health record was launched. Similar advancements have taken place throughout its now 16-year history.

Federal reform places a stronger emphasis than ever on successful management of patient experiences. MHIN's various solutions serve nearly 1,500 providers who cover more than one million patient lives. The secure access to data and other resources helps improve quality and reduce costs.

Many similar organizations have been dependent on federal or state funding. Beacon's addition, coupled with the ongoing commitment of the founders, allows MHIN to continue its successful business model.

Bob King, senior vice president of The Medical Foundation and chairman of the MHIN board, says, "We have certainly come a long way since our early days in the 1990s when MHIN was nothing but a mere idea. The growth through this finalization of a third owner means MHIN has an even brighter future than we could have ever imagined so many years ago."

**RESOURCE:** MHIN at [www.mhin.com](http://www.mhin.com)



## Helping Women Move Forward

The Healthcare Businesswomen's Association (HBA) has a 37-year history. Indiana's chapter, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, is the fifth largest in the nation with nearly 500 members.

HBA is a global not-for-profit that focuses on helping women advance their careers in the health care field. Leading Indiana companies – Eli Lilly, Roche Diagnostics and Pfizer – as well as hospitals, service providers and others are part of the state organization.

Despite its name, HBA is actually open to both men and women who are professionals in the health care industry. Members benefit from educational opportunities and learning about pathways to career advancement.

"Coming off our 10-year anniversary as a chapter, I am very excited for the professional development and networking opportunities we'll offer to both men and women in 2014," says Jean Scallon, HBA Indiana 2014 chapter president and CEO of Bloomington Meadows Hospital. "Our 2013 theme was to 'Cultivate, Plant and Grow' leaders in health care, and I know we were successful due to our event attendance, social media engagement and the positive feedback received."

HBA Indiana offers a calendar full of programs to enhance industry knowledge, executive presence, professional image and networking.

**RESOURCE:** HBA Indiana at [www.hbanet.org/chapters/Indiana](http://www.hbanet.org/chapters/Indiana)

## Research Initiative to Give Patients Louder Voice

A new South Bend-based research collaborative is bringing together thought leaders from across the country to better understand the patient experience and improve patient care.

The vehicle for this effort is the Institute for Innovation, an independent nonprofit comprised of leading clinicians, researchers and executives in health care. It's led by a board that includes Deirdre Mylod, Ph.D., the executive director; Thomas H. Lee, MD, chief medical officer of Press Ganey, also based in South Bend; and James Merlino, MD, chief experience officer of the Cleveland Clinic health system and founder and president of the Association for Patient Experience.

"By digging deeper into what patients are experiencing and their perspectives of the care they receive, we can turn that data into actionable insights that hospitals and health systems can use to make informed, effective and efficient improvements," Mylod explains.

The Institute's research framework focuses on identifying meaningful relationships among processes, practices and outcomes, including the integration of metrics across patient experience, organizational culture, clinical quality, safety, and operational and financial indicators.

The launch was announced by Press Ganey, which partners with health care organizations to improve performance.

**RESOURCE:** Institute for Innovation at [www.theinstituteforinnovation.org](http://www.theinstituteforinnovation.org)

