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**IHI Open School Enters Third Year with 60,000+ Students and Residents
Committed to Health Care Quality Improvement**

Students Span 46 U.S. States, 44 Countries, and All Health Disciplines

Cambridge, MA – September 21, 2011 – This fall, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s Open School for Health Professions celebrates its third anniversary – and the extraordinary commitment to health care improvement of its 60,000+ students and residents. Founded in 2008, the [IHI Open School](#) is an interprofessional online community for students, teachers, faculty, and professionals from all health disciplines that strives to advance and build skill in patient safety and quality improvement through education.

In just three years, the IHI Open School has made significant contributions to health professional education and training:

- 64,791 registered students and residents
- 33,736 students and health professionals who have taken courses
- 9,295 registered faculty and deans
- 255 health care organizations using the courses to improve the skills and knowledge of their existing staffs
- 340 chapters in 46 U.S. states and 44 countries

To celebrate its third anniversary and to kick off the school year, the IHI Open School has several initiatives underway this fall. In September, the IHI Open School is focusing on patient- and family-centered care, with a variety of engaging stories and offerings. On October 5, the IHI Open School is launching “Picture This: One Day in the Life of a Patient” – a photo campaign to promote patient- and family-centered care, where students and professionals can take pictures to demonstrate a “day in the life” of a patient. Many of the pictures will be posted on the IHI Open School website and at IHI’s [National Forum](#) in Orlando in December.

[Two new online courses](#), which are free for students, residents, and faculty, will be added to the IHI Open School catalog in the coming weeks. *PFC 101: Dignity and Respect* will teach students about patient- and family-centered care, and *MHO 101: Achieving Breakthrough Quality, Access, and Affordability* will teach students about health care operations and systems improvement.

“Students in health professions have notoriously grueling schedules. The fact that these busy students voluntarily take on more course work in the IHI Open School in order to

become skilled in quality improvement speaks volumes about the changes happening in the health care system,” said James Moses, MD, MPH, IHI Open School Faculty Advisor. “The IHI Open School is a paradigm shift in health-related education and is a much-needed supplement to the traditional curriculum, which focuses more on competency than on improvement. Now more than ever, health care institutions are looking for new doctors, nurses, and other health professionals with real expertise in quality improvement, and with the hands-on experience they get at the IHI Open School, these students are in demand.”

IHI Open School students come from all areas of health-related education, including medicine, nursing, pharmacology, health administration, and others. Leading schools such as Stanford University, Harvard University, and Johns Hopkins University are among those who boast [IHI Open School chapters](#).

“The Open School has been an extraordinary experience. While my medical education is preparing me to become a physician, the IHI Open School challenged me to become a leader and to learn skills that will provide better, safer, care to patients,” said Chris Hoedt, a medical student at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA. “As a result, I’m excited and confident about my future as a physician helping to lead improvements in our health care system.”

The IHI Open School enables IHI to educate the next generation of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and others about quality improvement, an important step in preparing the future leaders of health care systems to build the will for change.

“We are so proud that in just three years, IHI’s Open School has become a true gateway to quality improvement for thousands of health professions students,” said Maureen Bisognano, president and CEO of IHI. “These students can now take these skills and their passion for improvement into the health care system itself, a vital step in IHI’s mission.”

Experts estimate that up to 98,000 Americans die of medical errors per year, and the annual cost of preventable patient injury ranges from \$17 billion to \$29 billion, making clear the need for quality improvement on a system-wide basis.

To help address this challenge, the IHI Open School focuses on skills such as quality improvement, patient safety, teamwork, leadership, and patient-centered care – topics that most schools barely touch on but are crucial to employers and to patients. The IHI Open School engages its students via a robust website and in-person events, offering them the opportunity to learn state-of-the-art approaches to improving the care systems in which they will work.

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About IHI:

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (www.IHI.org) is an independent not-for-profit organization that works with health care providers and leaders throughout the world to achieve safe and effective health care. IHI focuses on motivating and building the will for change, identifying and testing new models of care in partnership with both patients and health care professionals, and ensuring the broadest possible adoption of best practices and effective innovations. Based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, IHI mobilizes teams, organizations, and increasingly nations, through its staff of more than 100 people and partnerships with hundreds of faculty around the world.

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