



Dr. Mervat Abdelhak
AHIMA past president and board member



THE CLIENT: AHIMA

The client: Headquartered in Chicago, IL, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) was established to facilitate the standard collection of patient data to support the measurement and management of quality outcomes. AHIMA is governed by a 13-member board of directors that meets approximately five times a year. It is a well-established international healthcare association with over 100,000 members. The challenge – find a CEO for a world-class, not-for-profit organization. The time frame is short, involving the board of directors who are in different geographic regions across the U.S.

Dr. Mervat Abdelhak, an AHIMA past president and board member, served on the CEO search committee. The association began by requesting proposals from several search firms.

“Barry Cesafsky engaged all of our board members and assisted with refining the objectives of our CEO position. He was 100% focused and didn’t oversell. As a board, we asked ourselves ‘Is there any value? Does using a smaller firm impact our timeline?’ We ultimately decided that Barry’s firm fit our culture – small and family oriented with a personal touch.”

Abdelhak added, Barry made sure they knew what we needed in the ideal candidate:

“Barry went above expectations in gathering information about our association in order to find the best candidate for us. He interviewed board members and top staff and attended national meetings. He looked outside the profession and focused on the skills that fit with our organization.”

The lines of communication were right on target:

“It was a difficult task to coordinate the schedules of the board members, search committee and candidates. Barry found a centrally-located, private place for us to convene, and he kept us all apprised of how the process was progressing.”



AHIMA'S NEW CEO

Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris
CEO

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“I could not ask for a more positive experience”



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After a six-month search, Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris was named the CEO at AHIMA. She was pleased with the way the interviews were conducted:

“Thanks to Barry and his open style, I knew the expectations of the position and felt comfortable with the interviews. I showed up as the best version of myself thanks to the preparation I received from Barry. He was responsive, and I liked the fact that I was consistently talking with him and not passed off to others within the firm.”

On-boarding was one of my primary questions during the interview process, Harris said:

“Barry has stayed in contact with me throughout my first year and beyond. He checks in to make sure that I am still excited about the position and have the support to do my very best. I could not ask for a more positive experience.”

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