



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 22, 2008**

**DR. SAM SPICER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NCHICA**

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC – Dr. Samuel Spicer, the Vice President of Medical Affairs at New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC) in Wilmington, NC, is the new President of the North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA). He was elected by the NCHICA Board of Directors at their Annual Meeting last month.

Spicer is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine and Family Practice, and has nearly 23 years of experience as an Emergency Physician. He has served as President of the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians, Chairman of the NHRMC Department of Emergency Medicine, Medical Director of the NHRMC and Cape Fear Hospitals Emergency Departments, President of East Carolina Emergency Physicians, and as Chief of Staff. His teaching appointments include two years as Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine for UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, and six years as Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine for East Carolina University School of Medicine.

He earned a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Emory University and his Medical Degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. He completed his Family Medicine Internship at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC and his Family Practice Residency at Riverside Hospital in Newport News, VA.

In 1998 Spicer first became involved with NCHICA, chairing the STEER (Standardization & Electronic Transmission of Emergency Records) Focus Group. This group was instrumental in developing the North Carolina Emergency Department Database, which was later run by the UNC Department of Emergency Medicine and evolved into NC DETECT (the North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool).

Spicer discussed his goals for the coming year during NCHICA's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibition in Greensboro, NC. His first task is to update the organization's Strategic Plan, which will be completed in late November. "There is much to be done in North Carolina to advance health IT and health information exchange initiatives," said Spicer. "We need to focus on what we can do well, and on what will best improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare in our state."

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**About NCHICA**

The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit consortium that serves as an open, effective and neutral forum for health information technology / exchange (HIT/HIE) and policy initiatives that improve health and care in North Carolina. Members include leading organizations in healthcare, research and information technology. Working closely with its members, NCHICA has the unique ability to convene and form partnerships to advance HIT adoption. NCHICA's leadership in conducting demonstration projects, hosting educational sessions and fostering collective efforts within North Carolina helps position the state at the vanguard of national HIT acceleration efforts. NCHICA is located in Research Triangle Park, NC. For more information, visit [www.nchica.org](http://www.nchica.org).

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