James Cimino, M.D., is the inaugural director of the Informatics Institute in the School of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The institute was established by the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System in June 2014. Cimino, who previously was the chief of the Laboratory for Informatics Development at the National Institutes of Health's Clinical Center and a senior scientist at the National Library of Medicine, is a national leader in the burgeoning field of biomedical informatics. He is one of the few informaticians in the prestigious Institute of Medicine and co-editor of the most influential textbook on informatics, Biomedical Informatics: Computer Applications in Health Care and Biomedicine, Fourth Edition. After graduating from Brown University and earning a medical degree at New York Medical College, Cimino interned and completed residency training in medicine at Saint Vincent's Hospital in New York. He then completed a research fellowship in medical informatics at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard. He was a professor of biomedical informatics and medicine at Columbia University, where he pioneered work on biomedical ontologies and a decision support tool called “infobuttons”. In 2008, he accepted a dual appointment with the NIH Clinical Center and the National Library of Medicine, where he built the Biomedical Translational Research Information System (BTRIS), a trans-NIH repository of clinical research data. Cimino was elected to the Institute of Medicine's Class of 2014. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Medical Informatics, for which he served as president from 2011 to 2012. He has served on the board of directors of the American Medical Informatics Association. In 2006 he received the Medal of Honor from New York Medical College and was elected to fellowship in the New York Academy of Medicine. He has received both the Donald A. B. Lindberg Award for Innovation in Informatics and the President's Award from the American Medical Informatics Association. He is a two-time recipient of the NIH Clinical Center Director’s Award.