Introduction to the Information Technology in Health Care Track

We are excited this year to initiate the information technology in health care track at HICSS. Across the globe health care providers, managers, and policy makers are struggling to improve the delivery and quality of health care. In these efforts, information technology is well recognized as a powerful tool for expanding the access to health care, as well as improving the quality of care and the efficiency of its delivery.

This track aims to provide a forum in which health care, computer science, and information systems professionals can come together to discuss issues related to the application of information technology in health care. While the medical, technical, and managerial perspectives each contribute to particular aspects of the health care problems, the complexity of today's problems requires more than one perspective. As a unique opportunity for cross-disciplinary interaction, we hope this track will give our conference participants and the readers of these proceedings new insights into the problems they face.

The track contains the following five minitracks, which represent a wide range of clinical, managerial and, technical issues:

§ Information overload on the physician's desktop
§ Decision support in the delivery of health care
§ Health care information infrastructure and standards
§ Telemedicine
§ Clinical information systems

The minitrack coordinators provide a brief summary of their minitracks and an overview of the papers in their sessions.

HICSS has a long tradition of addressing information technology issues in the medical and biomedical areas with a "Medical Information Processing" track from 1979 through 1986, a "Healthcare Systems" track in 1987, and a "Biotechnology Computing" track from 1993 through 1995. The Biotechnology Computing track grew to become a successful independent conference, the Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing. We are pleased to again carry on this HICSS tradition.

We wish to thank all of the people who, over the past two years, have worked to develop this track. The high quality collection of papers in the track is the fruit of their efforts. We look forward to the continuation of this track and welcome broad participation in the track at future HICSS conferences.

We hope you find the proceedings useful and enjoyable.

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