Introduction to Technology Mediated Collaborations in Healthcare Minitrack

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Collaboration technologies are being used in healthcare research, practice, and management. They have potential for even greater use especially in the light of healthcare reforms occurring throughout many countries and greater emphasis on technology to facilitate superior healthcare delivery. Geographically dispersed health professionals can use collaboration technology to communicate with each other, review patient records, manage workflows, and improve the delivery of patient care. The problem being addressed by this mini-track is encapsulated in an ontology in the figure below. The seven papers in the mini-track address different combinations of the ontology.

The paper “Delivery of Multilingual mHealth Service for Control of TB/HIV in Developing Countries” illustrates the benefits of mHealth services (the use of mobile communication technologies) to support better healthcare delivery by presenting the example of a simple and inexpensive SMS-based mHealth application can be used to assist in TB/HIV treatment.

The use of a robust knowledge base can serve to save time and effectively and efficiently facilitate better healthcare delivery. This is the focus of the paper “Building a knowledge base for health information exchange between emergency departments and poison control centers.” It illustrates the benefits of electronic information exchange in the context of emergency departments and poison control.

The paper “The Role of Healthcare System of Systems and Collaborative Technologies in Providing Superior Healthcare Delivery to Native American Patients” highlights the benefits that can occur as a result of incorporating technology mediated collaborations in the context of one segment of the community that continues to suffer from issues pertaining to poor access and low quality; i.e., the American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) population.

The paper “Complexity of Collaborative Work in Residential Aged Care Facilities: An Analysis of Information Exchange in Medication Management” discusses the interaction between the doctors, nurses, and community pharmacists (to be added to the ontology through a variety of media for care.

The paper “Distributed Cognition in Geriatric Telepsychiatry” describes the manifold interactions of different partners, content, media for psychiatric care. Its insights can be used to architect, design, and develop systems and strategies for such care.

The paper “Improving Colon Cancer Screening Levels Using Self-Serve Technologies: The Case of the Incomplete Appointment,” focuses on the technologies that enable or constrain the completion of colon cancer screening and recommends the use of collaborative self-serve technologies.

The paper “Market Engineering for Electronic Health Services,” discusses the creation of a sustainable model of electronic health services that involves collaborations among patients, service providers, physicians, and health insurance companies.