Introduction to the Information Technology in Healthcare Track

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The information technology in healthcare track at HICSS serves as a forum at which healthcare, computer science, and information systems professionals can come together to discuss issues related to the application of information technology in healthcare. 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.

This year we very happy to continue all six minitracks with excellent records from last year, some with minor name changes. Thus, this year the track consists of six minitracks:

- HCI and Consumer Health Informatics Issues in Healthcare IT
- Health Cyberinfrastructure: Applications and Technologies for Population Health and Health Services
- Innovative Data Analysis and Data Mining Tools in Biomedical Informatics
- IT Adoption and Evaluation in Healthcare
- IT Architecture and Application in Healthcare Environments
- Technology Mediated Collaborations in Healthcare (cross-listed in the Collaboration Systems and Technologies Track)

The minitrack coordinators provide brief summaries of their minitracks and overviews of the papers in their sessions.

With 40 papers, the track has grown about 30% over last year. Papers in the minitracks address a wide range of clinical, managerial, technical issues, social, and policy issues, and report on studies from around the world. The topics include the adoption and evaluation of clinical and personal health records, mobile systems to help transplant patients, systems for chronic disease management, visual interfaces for pediatric systems, the design of community health portals, use of health IT to mitigate pandemics, and a wide variety of management issues, ranging from security to economic issues. Yet, despite this diversity, all of the papers have a common focus: How can information technology be use to improve the quality of care, the efficiency of the delivery of health care, and the access to health care?

In attempting to answer this question, each author has focused on a particular aspect of information technology and healthcare, spanning multiple fields of research and professional healthcare practice. Their inclusion in this track reflects on the quality, relevance, and importance of their work. We believe the collection of these perspectives provides for stimulating and productive discussions and the generation of new ideas.

I wish to thank all of the people who have worked so diligently to develop this track; I appreciate the time and effort the minitrack coordinators had to spend over the past year. The high quality collection of papers in the track is the fruit of their efforts. We look forward to the further development of this track. I welcome, and strongly solicit, your participation in this track at future HICSS conferences. Please contact me with your ideas for new minitracks or papers.

I hope you find the proceedings useful and enjoyable.