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 contributes 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 the six minitracks from the past two conferences with a few improvements. The previous cyberinfrastructure minitrack now focuses on innovation for change, a move that allows participants to move from technical to organizational and behavioral issues. The biomedical informatics minitrack now emphasizes the analysis of visual data and the visualization of biomedical data.

Accordingly, this year the track consists of six minitracks:

- Data Analysis and Visualization in Biomedical Informatics
- HCI and Consumer Health Informatics Issues
- IT Adoption and Evaluation in Healthcare
- IT Architecture and Application in Healthcare Environments
- IT Innovation for Change in Healthcare
- 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 remains the same size as 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. Health conditions investigated include cancer, diabetes, cerebral palsy, lower back disorders, dementia, and suicide. Technology adoption and diffusion are investigated at the physician, patient, clinic, and hospital levels. The application of a variety of mobile, data analysis, and security technologies are investigate in the areas ranging from public health to behavioral medicine. Most all of the papers discuss managerial or health policies implications.

As with the HICSS conference as a whole, we are fortunate to have researchers from around the world contributing to this track. In addition to the United States and Canada, the track contains a number of studies from Australia and studies from China, India, Finland, and Italy.

Despite the diversity of topics and countries represented in this track, 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 healthcare, 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.