Introduction to HCI and Consumer Health Informatics Minitrack

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The HICSS 2013 Minitrack on HCI and Consumer Health Informatics continues a tradition of providing a forum for presentation of consistently high quality, innovative, and interesting research articles for review by the e-Health research community. This year, we have one of the strongest sessions yet. It will include research teams presenting seven excellent articles addressing research topics that focus on design, user interaction, systems for specific health concerns, and innovative use of Healthcare IT.

Our first presentation focuses on tech-enabled public health communications. “Are Concerns and Needs of Parents Addressed? An Analysis of Cerebral Palsy Agencies Websites in Australia, discussed by researcher Sim Kim Lau. Next, Sonya HY Hsu will share the concepts and results of her research on bariatrics, “A Web Portal for Bariatric Patients -- Effective Relationships Management.” This will be followed by “Creating Consumer Friendly Health Content: Implementing and Testing a Readability Diagnosis and Enhancement Tool,” by Joshua Proulx, Brent Hill, and Qing Zeng-Treitler. The role of design in IS disciplines continues to increase in importance, and Consumer Health HCI offers countless opportunities for design focused contributions. An example will be presented by Naffisah Mohd Hassan, Khin Than Win, and Peter Hyland, who will discuss “Exploring Design Features and Benefits of Online Patient Education (OPE) for Chronic Diseases.” A thought-provoking study that looks at the “Influence of Text and Participant Characteristics on Perceived and Actual Text Difficult,” will be presented by the team of Obay Mouradi, Gondy Leroy, James Endicott, and David Kauchak.

Next, a very interesting look at applying HCI perspectives in Emotional Health, Philipp Jordan, Paula Alexandra Silva, Francisco Nunes, and Renato Oliveira will discuss their research on “mobileWay – A System to Reduce the Feeling of Temporary Lonesomeness of Persons with Dementia and to Foster Inter-caregiver Collaboration.” Consumer Health researchers identify self care as a rapidly growing trend among health consumers around the globe. Related trends and issues will be discussed by Surendra Sarnikar, Omar El-Gayar, and Abdullah Wahbeh, who will present their recent work entitled “On the Design of IT-enabled Self-care Systems: A Socio-technical Perspective.”

We again thank the authors of these interesting articles for the wide range of important and innovative topics, and we look forward to seeing you at the session!

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