Collaboration technologies are being used in healthcare research, practice, and management. However, they have potential for even greater use especially in the light of healthcare reforms currently occurring throughout many countries and their 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. Similarly, geographically non-collocated researchers can collaborate with each other. The problem being addressed by this mini-track is encapsulated in the ontology in the figure below.

The six papers in the mini-track address different components of the ontology. In the following we map these papers to the ontological framework as an infographic, and in so doing highlight their emphases and lack of it. The paper “Leveraging Key Aspects of Collaborative Techniques to Assist Clinical Decision Making: The Case of Hip and Knee Arthroplasty” focuses on the focuses on developing an architecture for collaboration between the clinicians, patients, and a computer agent for analysis using a variety of media for care. The paper “Patients’ Behavioral Intentions toward Using WSN based Smart Home Healthcare Systems: An Empirical Investigation” focuses on the strategy for collaboration between the clinicians, nurses, and patients for exchange of data using the web for care. The paper “OH-BUDDY: Mobile Phone Texting based Intervention for Diabetes and Oral Health Management” focuses on a system for patients and caregivers to exchange data and treatment using the web for care and education. The paper “Post-Hoc CIT: A Useful Method for Qualitative IS Research” focuses on the use of Critical Incident Technique to study the collaboration between patients and caregivers. The paper "Ontological Analysis of the Research on the Use of Social Media for Health Behavior Change” focuses on the collaboration between caregivers and patients using social media for health behavior change.

Ideally, one would hope to realize all the possible collaborations envisaged in the ontology. There is a need for these collaborations. The five papers are a sample, albeit not representative, of the research on technology mediated collaboration in healthcare. They are signifiers of the state-of-the-practice. With the increasing emphasis on translational research, cost containment, safety, and quality in healthcare the collaborations underrepresented in these papers would be equally important for effective delivery.