Introduction to the Global Health IT Strategies Minitrack

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The global proliferation of information and communication technologies, along with improved mobile computing accessibility, enhanced security and cloud-based data exchanges have germinated interests in those seeking to apply existing and emerging information technologies to address health issues throughout diverse regions of the world. These applications and solutions can vary widely depending on the resources; infrastructure and culture inherent to regions. These include global health education systems, emerging low-cost mobile health apps for all healthcare actors, public health monitoring and tracking systems, emergency response systems, as well as traditional telemedicine applications. These efforts are already impacting the rapid growth and further development of global healthcare solutions and applications arising from the active collaboration among cross-disciplinary researchers, multi-national agencies and international clinical practitioners.

This mini-track will examine broader issues relating to Global Health IT strategies, including similarities and differences in how regions as diverse as North America, Africa, Asia and the Middle-East approach health improvements, emerging trends for applying innovative health IT solutions to improve general population and community health care globally, new forms and modalities of care delivery aided with Health IT globally such as use of innovative low-cost, mobile and sensor-enabled and other emerging health technological applications. These solutions will provide a multinational perspective on the benefits of mobile health and other emerging information technologies and describes different examples and applications implemented.

This mintrack will include a total of five papers. Two of these papers explore and report on the use of innovative technologies for global health-related purposes, including social media and crowdsourcing. The paper titled “A Conceptual Model to Understand the Factors that Drive Individual Participation in Crowdsourcing for Medical Diagnosis” contributes to the utilization of experts from around the world to assist in diagnosis. The paper titled “Global Health Information Technology Solutions for a Community Health Innovation Framework” describes the methodology in developing a web portal for the purpose of supporting various global health activities in a localized manner.

Two papers focus on interoperability of systems between nations and international standards, and one focuses on innovation in healthcare services to address global health issues. The paper titled “Toward Global Health Interoperability: A Research Framework for Traditional Chinese Medicine Using Ontology as a Knowledge Management Approach” proposes a framework integrating two international versions for the classification of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The authors of the paper titled “A Cross-country Comparison of Success Factor Priorities for Health Information Technology Managers: Evidence of Convergence in the Nordic Countries” suggest that an internationally applicable set of recommendations can be made for the successful application of health information technology. In “Healthcare Informatics Competencies as Microfoundations of Dynamic Capabilities: Theory Development and Methodological Considerations”, an attempt is made to establish healthcare workers’ informatics competencies as determinants of organizations to innovate to address global health issues.

Global Health IT Strategies relate to all forms of emerging trends for applying innovative health IT solutions globally such as to improve population health and community health care, e-solutions emphasizing low-cost, mobile and sensor-enabled or other new health technological applications. As well, new ways of delivering traditional, complementary and integrative medicine will be accommodated in this mini-track. All of these e-health solutions will provide a multinational perspective on the benefits of mobile health and other emerging information technologies and describes different examples and applications implemented.

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