Introduction to the Minitrack

Mobile & Sensing Solutions for Health Promotion and Maintenance

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Mobile applications and Web 2.0 have dramatically impacted many aspects of professional and private access to information and influence how we make decisions. They have the potential to facilitate the design and development of superior ubiquitous healthcare solutions. In addition there is a trend to foster active patient participation in their care.

In this minitrack, we focus on how such pervasive and mobile solutions might be utilized to ameliorate the challenges faced by healthcare delivery such as escalating cost pressure, aging population, increasing chronic diseases, and move to preventive care. Integral to these solutions is a patient centric view in order to satisfy consumer expectations. Specifically, a new field of research is evolving which is focused on ambient and pervasive technologies for healthcare, e.g., incorporating mobile devices, smart sensors, and social media. This rapidly growing area is expected to play an increasingly important role for healthcare globally. Reasons for this include: the higher mobility of individuals, the need to have active and empowered patients, the pressure to provide effective and efficient care, the growth in chronic diseases and therefore the demand for appropriate applications to monitor and manage these diseases. Pervasive and mobile solutions generate large amounts of data. This big data is a bonanza for enhancing insights into healthcare processes as well as for improving healthcare IT.

This mintrack will include two sessions with high quality papers focusing on mobile applications as well as theoretical analysis and literature review in the field of patient centered care. Design, usage, and evaluation of various smartphone apps will be addressed. Specific research subjects and results will be presented.

Many thanks to William Chismar and Tom Horan for their assistance to us in managing this minitrack and we trust you will all enjoy the papers and enjoy good health.