Introduction to the Minitrack

Mobile Applications and Emerging Technologies for Health Management and Wellness

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Mobile applications and Web 2.0 are dramatically influencing how clinicians, caregivers, patients and their families manage care processes. Further, they have the potential to facilitate the design and development of superior healthcare delivery and wellness. In addition, we are witnessing a plethora of emerging technologies that assist to foster active patient participation in their care which in turn is making patient-centered care and patient empowerment growing trends. In this minitrack, we focus on how such mobile applications and emerging technologies might be utilized to address the challenges faced by healthcare management such as escalating cost pressures, a growing aging population, an increasing prevalence of chronic diseases, and a move to a preventive care focus.

The minitrack comprises two sessions. A set of presentations focuses on theoretical concepts as well as application scenarios of wearable and mobile devices for health and fitness. The physician’s perspective as well as the patient-centric view will be addressed. Exemplary solutions and prototypical systems will be introduced. Another group of papers exhibits results of empirical studies conducted in clinical and ambient environments. Taken together they serve to illustrate the potentials and limits of mobile applications for health and wellness.