Welcome from the Program Chairs

ICHI 2013

The IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics (ICHI) is the premier international forum concerned with the application of computer science principles, information science principles, information technology, and communication technology to address problems in healthcare, public health, everyday wellness as well as the related social and ethical issues. ICHI 2013 is a forum for demo and paper contributions from researchers, practitioners, developers, and users to explore and disseminate cutting-edge ideas and results, and to exchange techniques, tools, and experiences.

ICHI 2013 held in Philadelphia from 9 to 11 September 2013, with the goal of bringing together researchers and scientists from academia and industry as well as practitioners to discuss their research and practices. The three-day conference program features 3 keynote speeches, 55 regular papers and short papers for both oral and poster presentations, 14 extended abstracts, 1 tutorial, 1 panel, and a doctoral consortium. Three workshops completed this exciting program: the International Workshop on Data Mining for Healthcare (DMH 2013), the first Workshop on Mobile Cloud Computing in Healthcare (WMCCCH 2013), and the Workshop on Hospital Readmission Prediction and Clinical Risk Management (HRPCRM 2013).

ICHI 2013 received 101 submissions. Submissions came from 30 different countries. These numbers confirm the high relevance of ICHI 2013 in attracting the interest of several research groups around the globe. All papers were carefully peer-reviewed by experts from the Program Committee with the support of additional reviewers. Each submission was reviewed by at least two, and on average more than three reviewers. Several submissions received four and even five or six reviews. The reviewers judged the quality and originality of the submitted papers, together with their relevance to the ICHI conference. Eight criteria were taken into consideration in judging submissions: the reviewers’ overall recommendation, the relevance to the conference, the significance to theory and practice, the quality of presentation, the novelty, the technical depth and soundness, the reviewers’ detailed comments, and the reviewers’ confidence in the subject area. Each submission was then managed by a senior PC member, who coordinated the discussion between reviewers and made a meta-review with a proposal about acceptance/rejection.

Paper submissions and reviews were organized according to three tracks: (i) Analytics Track focuses on data analytics; (ii) Human Factors Track focuses on understanding users or context, interface design, and user studies of health informatics applications; and (iii) Systems Track focuses on building health informatics systems (e.g., architecture, framework, design, engineering, and application).

In several conference calls, the three PC co-chairs Carlo Combi, Zhiyong Lu, and Yin-Leng Theng, together with the general co-chair Chris Yang, made the final decisions regarding the ICHI 2013 scientific program. As a result, 31 papers were accepted for oral presentation (with an acceptance rate of about 30%) and 24 papers were accepted for poster presentation. There are 11 parallel oral presentation sessions covering topics in systems, analytics, and human factors. The papers were organized according to their topics in the following main themes: (1) Drug Management; (2) Human Factors: Applications; (3) Health Text Analytics; (4) Interactivity and Modality; (5) Health Organization and Epidemiology; (6) Health Risk Prediction; (7) Home-Assistance and Individual Care; (8) Human Factors: Effects and Outcomes; (9) Web-based Architectures and User Interactions. Contributing authors come from 21 countries and regions, including Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sri-Lanka, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States.
We are grateful to the Program Committee of over 160 members who have provided high-quality and constructive review comments. We would like to express our gratitude to all authors for contributing their high-quality work and session chairs for coordinating the exciting and interesting sessions. Our special thanks go to Gondy Leroy (Poster and Demo Chair), Chih-Ping Wei and Fusheng Wang (Workshop Chair), Min Song (Tutorial Chair), David Buckeridge and Giuseppe Pozzi (Doctoral Consortium Chair), Jiexun Li (Local Arrangements Chair), Gang Luo and Yan Zhang (Publicity Chair), Wai-Tat Fu and Courtney Corley (Financial Support Chair) Ritu Khare (Registration Chair), Haodong Yang and Ling Jiang (Web Chair), and Atif Khan (Social Media chair). We are also thankful to the publication chair, Wen Yao, who put forth a lot of effort in preparing the proceedings. Our sincere gratitude goes to General Co-Chairs Christopher C. Yang and Sophia Ananiadou.

**Carlo Combi**, Università degli Studi di Verona, Italy  
**Zhiyong Lu**, National Library of Medicine, USA  
**Yin-Leng Theng**, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
ICHII 2013 Program Committee Co-chairs