Welcome to the IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics 2014 (ICHI 2014). Healthcare Informatics with computing focus and interdisciplinary nature has drawn increasing attention in the recent years. We are glad to continue with our second ICHI in Verona in 2014, following the first one in Philadelphia in 2013. ICHI serves as an international platform for researchers and practitioners from academic and industry to share their innovative research work on healthcare informatics with each other. ICHI 2014 has received submissions from about 400 authors who come from 32 different countries.

The final 3-day program is composed of 25 oral presentations, 21 poster presentations, 1 panel, 2 demos, 3 tutorials, 14 extended abstract posters, and 1 doctoral consortium. It is our honor to invite three prominent speakers in healthcare domain to give keynote speeches. Dr. Eric D. Perakslis, from Harvard Medical School, USA, will offer his insights on Data Science Against Disease, discussing about perspectives on research networks, eHealth and medical product discovery, development and regulation. Prof. Manfred Reichert, from University of Ulm, Germany, will talk about healthcare process support in a complex and mobile world. Prof. Ramamohanarao Kotagiri will give a talk about automated segmentation of white matter lesions.

The doctoral consortium chairs together with the review committee have selected doctoral students to present their work in oral and poster formats in the three-hour program. Each doctoral student will have the opportunity to receive individual mentorship from our mentors. A panel is also organized for the mentors and doctoral students to discuss the latest development of healthcare informatics research and the career preparation of our doctoral students.

We are particularly thankful to the IEEE Computer Society and the Technical Committee on Intelligent Informatics (TCII). Without their technical support and conference support services, it would not be easy to initiate the first IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics in Europe. Our special thanks go to Prof. Jiming Liu, the chair of TCII, and Ms. Paula J. Anderson, the meeting planner of IEEE Computer Society, for their valuable help in supporting the organization of this ICHI edition.

We would like to sincerely thank our organizing committee members who have volunteered their time and effort in the preparation of ICHI 2014. Drs. Riccardo Bellazzi, Silvia Miksch, and Balakrishnan Prabhakaran have coordinated the program committee to review and select the high quality submissions for presentations. Drs. Roberto Posenato and Gabriele Pozzani has taken extensive time to set up the online registration system and keep track on the registration records. Dr. Ritu Khare has helped in composing the high quality proceedings. Our web chairs and social media chairs, Gabriele Pozzani and Atif Khan, has done a great job in keeping our participants and contributors updated on the conference information through our web portal and social media. We are also grateful to our workshop chairs, Drs. Giuseppe Pozzi and Guanling Chen: unfortunately, despite their efforts and the work of the workshop organizers, the proposed workshops, namely those on Big Data Analytics in Healthcare (BigDAH2014) and on Managing Interoperability and compleXity in Health Systems (MIX-HS’14), respectively, did not reach an acceptable number of submissions.

We are finally grateful to our poster and demo chair, Dr. Shipeng Yu, our tutorial chair, Dr. Prasanna Desikan, our publicity chair, Drs. Jose Juarez, for their help in building such an exciting ICHI program. Our treasurer, Dr. Barbara Oliboni, together with our secretary Ms. Aurora Miorelli, managed all the budget issues. We believe our doctoral students would agree with us that they have been benefited significantly through the doctoral consortium, which is organized by Drs. David Buckeridge and William Cheung.

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