Welcome from the ICHI 2016 General Chairs

The IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics (ICHI) is the premier international forum concerned with the application of science and technology to address problems in healthcare and the related social and ethical issues. ICHI 2016 is a forum for contributions from researchers, practitioners, developers, and users to explore and disseminate cutting-edge ideas and results, and to exchange techniques, tools, and experiences.

ICHI 2016 is held in Chicago, Illinois, USA from October 4 to October 7, 2016, with the goal of bringing together researchers and scientists from academia and industry as well as practitioners to discuss their research and practices. The main call for original research submissions resulted in 142 submissions from 35 different countries around the world. These numbers confirm the high relevance of ICHI 2016 in attracting the interest of several research groups around the globe.

ICHI 2016 follows the tradition that papers are reviewed and accepted only if they meet the highest standard that is similar to other top-tiered IEEE conferences. This is to ensure that all accepted papers are of high quality and have significant intellectual contribution to the area of healthcare informatics. Paper submissions and reviews for ICHI 2016, as in the previous editions, were organized according to three tracks:

(i) Analytics Track focused on data analytics;
(ii) Human Factors Track focused on understanding users or context, interface design, and user studies of health informatics applications; and
(iii) Systems Track focused on building health informatics systems (e.g., architecture, framework, design, engineering, and application).

In addition to the three scientific tracks, ICHI 2016 also had the industry track, which focused on papers describing research or implementation that show high practical value to the healthcare industry. ICHI 2016 also had 2 scientific panels and 1 funding panel. These panels allowed researchers to engage in discussion and share their perspectives on various healthcare informatics issues. ICHI 2016 also hosted a healthcare data analytics challenge, which attracted participation from 10 international teams who attempted to solve a single data challenge problem. The ICHI 2016 doctoral consortium attracted over 25 submissions from PhD student from all over the world to share their research ideas and learn from a panel of expert mentors, who provided direct guidance on these groups of future researchers in the global healthcare industry.

Submitted papers in each track were carefully peer-reviewed by experts from the Program Committee with the support of senior program committee members and expert reviewers. Each submission was reviewed by at least three independent reviewers who were experts in areas of healthcare informatics. 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. The program chairs and the general chairs managed directly all the possible conflicts of interest of submitted papers.
In IEEE ICHI 2016, 34 papers were accepted for oral presentation (with an acceptance rate of about 24%) and another 62 papers were accepted for poster and demo presentation. The oral presentations are presented in a non-overlapping manner over 7 sessions spread over the 3 conference days. 3 best paper candidates have been selected from the 3 main research tracks.

We are grateful to the Program Committee of over 150 members from all around the world 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. I hope you all enjoy the conference and hope to see you again next year!

Wai-Tat Fu and Larry Hodges
General Chairs