An Institute of Medicine report published in 2012 concluded that healthcare has become too complex and costly to continue on its present trajectory, and that digital technologies will be a key aspect of healthcare delivery [1]. While such reports provide a valuable research agenda for how the healthcare system needs to function, a fundamental issue is it is not designed to provide the level of care outlined in the reports. For our healthcare system to function at a high level it needs to undergo a substantial transformation, of which software engineering and the SEHC community will play a critical role. The current healthcare delivery paradigm is one of connectivity and information exchange. Software engineering will be a crucial enabling technology for healthcare transformation because our ability to provide integrated healthcare delivery will only be as good as our ability to engineer the underlying software that enables connectivity. In that sense, our ability to deliver efficient, safe and evidence based healthcare services will depend greatly on software engineering and the innovative research of the SEHC community.

The theme for the 5th SEHC workshop was “Moving beyond entrenched ways – Software engineering for healthcare transformation in the 21st Century”. The workshop was held in San Francisco, California, on May 20 & 21, 2013 in association with the International Conference on Software Engineering. This year, the SEHC workshop received 29 submissions -- 16 short papers (4 pages each) and 13 research and case study papers (7 pages each). From these, 8 short/tool papers and 8 research/case studies were accepted for presentation. The workshop also featured keynote speakers and a discussion panel.


We would like to thank the SEHC 2013 program committee for their efforts in planning and delivering a strong program for this year’s workshop.

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