

## ISfTeH Board Member's Profile – Pirkko Kouri

Name: Pirkko Kouri

Country: Finland

Position: ISfTeH Board Member, Vice-President

Pirkko Kouri, PhD, PHN, RN, was born in Joroinen, Finland on 09.07.1955. Her first profession was a registered nurse, a degree she obtained in 1977 from Nurse College in Helsinki. Since then, she also obtained a degree as a Public Health Nurse in 1986, and Master of Health Education in 1994. In 2006 she got her PhD in Nursing Science from University of Eastern Finland, located in the city of Kuopio. The title of her PhD work is 'Development of Maternity Clinic on the Net service – views of pregnant families and professionals'. She has written both scientific and practice-base articles, and been a co-author in many books.

She is the secretary of the Finnish Society for Telemedicine and eHealth (FSTeH), an ISfTeH national member. Since its foundation in 1995, FSTeH is the second oldest society in the world and oldest in Europe, FSTeH is nationally very active in developing all the areas related to telemedicine and eHealth. Recently, they also offer support to academic education, with physicians being able to obtain specialisation in eHealth.

Pirkko has a long history of utilising ICT in her work, starting in 1984 at the Kuopio University Hospital. She has had several eHealth projects, especially in the field of mother-child health care. Her interest is to find or to develop solutions how to make the best use of mobile technology in that specific field. As an educator her interests are in developing education in eHealth among health professions.

Currently she works as Principal Lecturer in Healthcare Technology at Savonia University of Applied Sciences (Savonia). She runs, coordinates and develops all master level study programs in collaboration with a multidisciplinary teachers' group. She is a project manager in projects which develop use of mobile technology in the field of mother-child health care like e.g. Africa, FinMoz2 which takes place both in Mozambique and in Finland; Health Informatics studies in collaboration with partner universities in Nigeria, Mozambique and South-Africa. Furthermore, she has been Savonia's coordinator in the development work to China, especially with Shanghai University of Medical and Health Sciences. She has been four times as an exchange teacher in the Fudan University School of Nursing, Shanghai. Two University Hospitals affiliated to Fudan University (Ob/Gyn and Children) are now in close collaboration.

In 2011-2013 she was invited as a member of the eHealth Strategic Advisory Group at the International Council of Nurses (ICN). She is also member of IMIA-NI education working group since 2007. The group is discussing and defining e.g. the nursing informatics competences related to nurse education and practice. The Finnish Nurse Association launched on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the first 'National eHealth Strategy for Nurses'. She was vice-chair of the expertise group who created the Strategy.

She does voluntary work and is the chair of regional Cancer Association, which has 20 local units and altogether 4500 members.

She is married and has three children and seven grand-children. Her hobbies are reading, walking, women gymnastics, choir singing, and movies.