



## **International Council of Nurses and the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth join forces to advance eHealth knowledge**

**Geneva, Switzerland, Luzern, Switzerland - 9 April 2014** -The International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth (ISfTeH) today announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that formalises the relationship between the two organisations. ICN and ISfTeH have collaborated for more than five years to advance eHealth and telehealth knowledge and understanding in their respective, but complementary, spheres of influence. Areas of continued collaboration will include communications, conferences and resources.

David Benton, ICN CEO stated. "it is essential to work with our colleagues in interdisciplinary forums to ensure nursing involvement and impact in the rapidly growing eHealth environment. This more formalised interface with the ISfTeH provides us with another avenue for encouraging nurses to take on leadership roles in telehealth nursing from care delivery settings to education to research."

Andy Fischer, President of ISfTeH, noted that, "As telehealth technology is bringing important changes to medicine and health care it is incumbent upon all of us to collaborate across disciplines to ensure that people with health needs receive timely and optimal care that will lead to best quality outcomes. We look forward to continuing our strong collaboration with the ICN."

The ICN eHealth Programme, established in 2011, envisions a transformation of nursing through information and communication technology. The Programme includes the ICN Telenursing Network, the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP), and the Connecting Nurses Collaboration. The goals of the Programme are to support eHealth practice, to be recognised as an authority on eHealth, and to be positioned centrally in the eHealth Community.

The ISfTeH membership includes national associations, associates, institutions, corporate, individual, nurses and students. ISfTeH fosters the sharing of knowledge and experiences across organisations and across borders and aims to promote the widespread use of ICT tools and solutions in health and social care. ISfTeH has 14 Working Groups, among them the Telenursing Working Group (TWG) which has, to date, 52 members representing 22 countries. The TWG vision is to extend nursing's reach through technology and to improve the quality of health care delivery worldwide. Its mission is to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experiences of nurses and others who are working with or supporting nurses using eHealth applications.

**Note for Editors:**

The **International Council of Nurses** (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

The **International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth** mission is to facilitate the international dissemination of knowledge and experience in telemedicine and eHealth and to provide access to recognized experts in the field worldwide.

For further information contact Lindsey Williamson at: [media@icn.ch](mailto:media@icn.ch)

Tel: +41 22 908 0100; Fax: +41 22 908 0101, [www.icn.ch](http://www.icn.ch)

or

ISfTeH: Keri Dostie, AMD Global Telemedicine, tel: +1 (978) 937-9021 Ext: 316

ICN/PR2014 #7