A Century of Telemedicine:
Curatio Sine Distantia et Tempora
A World Wide Overview – Part I
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Dear Reader,

The book “A Century of Telemedicine. Curatio Sine Distantia et Tempora: A World Wide Overview” Part I is now in your hands. This is the first book of the new series, dedicated to a more detailed history of Telemedicine and eHealth in various countries.

The chapters reveal different national and cultural points of view on the development and implementation of Telemedicine/eHealth solutions for the treatment of patients and wellbeing of citizens. The book provides a glimpse and summarizes the best practical achievements, existing solutions and experiences in an initial set of six countries. The goal is to share these national experiences with international, other national and regional institutions and policy makers as well as with all groups or individuals involved with healthcare.

The book offers a wide range of bottom-up and top-down approaches and solutions as well as a logical follow-up of the previous monograph (Vladzymyrskyy A., Jordanova M., Lievens F. A Century of Telemedicine: Curatio Sine Distantia et Tempora. Sofia, Bulgaria, 2016). It provides directions for a wide variety of decisions, able to affect the form and functioning of the healthcare sector over the next decades, and offers clues towards the expected future of health organization at community level.

The results and guidelines presented apply to all – national and local administration, individual practitioners, group practices, healthcare systems, as well as to providers of health-related services where there are Telemedicine/eHealth interactions either directly to the patient or from provider to provider for the purposes of healthcare delivery.

Telemedicine/eHealth offers enormous possibilities. The technological solutions are available and ready for implementation. If carefully realized, taking into account the needs of the community, cultural frames and economic development, Telemedicine/eHealth is able to improve both access to and the standard of healthcare, and thus to close the gap between the demand and supply of affordable, high quality healthcare to everyone, at any time, everywhere.

The editors are convinced that this book will provide useful information to those who are preparing to introduce or expand Telemedicine/eHealth in their regions or countries. It will allow them to rely on the experience of others and will make them aware of the benefits and problems that were encountered during and after implementation of systems or services, and as such, will help them to possibly avoid mistakes and reduce potential problems.
Yet, it is necessary to underline that:

- The content of the book is divided in chapters covering various areas of Telemedicine/eHealth;
- Each chapter presents the expertise of one country;
- Countries included in the book are chosen on basis of a random selection method;
- Chapters, except the one for the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth, are listed alphabetically;
- The original style of the authors was respected as much as possible;
- “How”, “Where”, “When” are only part of the questions that authors are trying to answer;
- In order to shorten repeated references the abbreviation “ibid” is used. It originates from Latin ibidem, i.e. "in the same place";
- Despite the amount of information included in each chapter, no doubt that many events and facts are still out-of-sight. We hope to be able to fill these gaps in later editions.

We firmly believe that everyone involved in Telemedicine/eHealth will find this book not only interesting, but most valuable as well.

Enjoy your reading!

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