The newsletter of the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth (ISfTeH) is published quarterly for members of the global telemedicine and eHealth community to provide updates about ISfTeH members and activities, as well as other telemedicine and eHealth news.

Updates from the ISfTeH Global Telemedicine & eHealth Network (April 2016)

Pick up interesting and useful information in this issue about a new eHealth Strategy from the Finnish Nurses Association, a new book on a century of telemedicine, the ISfTeH's Med-e-Tel conference and other ISfTeH supported events, new corporate member Avizia, and more. Enjoy reading!

STAY CONNECTED:

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Reader,

I trust that everyone has had a good Easter pause from the hustle and bustle of their activities. As the ISfTeH does every year around this time, we are holding our fixed event - Med-e-Tel - in Luxembourg. Unfortunately, not every member of the ISfTeH family gets to attend this conference. Let me therefore share with you my 2016 welcome message to participants. It will serve to update you on this key activity of our Society. And, look forward to many more of you receiving this first hand next year, as participants at Med-e-Tel. Or if you want to join us next week, there still is time to do so!

Med-e-Tel Welcome Message 2016

Dear Participant,

Welcome to yet another edition, the 14th of Med-e-Tel. As in the past, we are expecting several
hundred attendees, from 50-60 countries. And we have in stock for you a truly mouth-watering
array of events and programs.

The Agence eSanté of Luxembourg is again participating with several partners in the Med-e-Tel
exposition. They will present two sessions in the conference program, one on "Connected
objects" and another on "Cross-border healthcare".

The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) will host a
session "IMI - Creating the Ecosystem for Real-world Data". IMI, the Innovative Medicines
Initiative, is Europe's largest public-private initiative aiming to speed up the development of
better and safer medicines for patients. IMI supports collaborative research projects and builds
networks of industrial and academic experts in order to boost pharmaceutical innovation in
Europe. IMI is a joint undertaking between the EU and EFPIA. The session aims to increase
external awareness of eHealth solutions being explored in IMI projects and to introduce the
concept of responsible use of health data and co-creation of standards.

The European Platform for Patient Organizations, Science and Industry (EPPOSI) will hosts a
second edition of its "Meeting of the Minds" - which, like last year will cover governance of
quality health data communication: sharing and interoperability - making sure that the multiple
sources and nodes of the complex digital health ecosystem generate and share quality data and
exchange information seamlessly: from each data source, and down the links of the health data
value chain.

After a first, successful session in 2015, the PGEU (Pharmaceutical Group of the European
Union) - community pharmacists - will host a session on "Pharmacy and m/eHealth".

Various sessions on "Smart and Assistive Technologies for Independent Living and Wellbeing"
look at technologies that can support ageing populations to live independently (or with
assistance) at home or in institutional settings, but also technologies that can support the
(in)formal caregivers. In a similar vein, the IN LIFE project will host a session titled "independent
living support functions and services for older people with cognitive impairments."

Preconference events include a "Telecardiology Workshop" and a "Social Media and Medical
Education Master Class". The Telecardiology Workshop features presentations from two expert
cardiologists, both ISfTeH board members, about their long-term telecardiology experiences and
also sees the introduction of several innovative solutions for automatic ECG analysis, an
integrated telemonitoring platform, and more. In the Social Media Master Class the ISfTeH
Social Media WG, together with University of Luxembourg (INSIDE Research Unit), will present
a panorama of social media applications in Medical Education.

A new feature this year is the debate/discussion scheduled for Thursday morning, with various
ISfTeH members and partners on how to set up, develop and operate successful telemedicine
programs, products and services. What is required? What is the healthcare professional's point
of view? What has been the experience thus far?

Finally, the Brussels Region (Brussels Invest & Export and brussels.lifetech) will have a pavilion
in the exposition area, with several (young) companies. There will be quite a few new/young
companies in other pavilions as well, with innovative, exciting products and solutions. And there
is much, much more on the program.

I am personally looking forward to seeing old friends and business contacts, while savoring the
prospects of making new ones. This is the powerful combination that makes Med-e-Tel the ideal event for education, networking and business, and a permanent fixture on the ISITeH event calendar. Do, make the most of it.

Sincerely,

Prof. S. Yunkap Kwankam
Executive Director
International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth

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**Finnish Nurses Association launched new eHealth Strategy for Nurses**

Increased use of information and communication technology (ICT) also created a demand for nursing to strengthen the knowledge, skills and competences related to ICT in health (eHealth) and define its different roles. The Finnish Nurses Association (FNA) created a group of eHealth experts from various professional fields closely connected to nursing e.g. nursing practice, higher education, nursing research and administration to develop an eHealth Strategy.

The main purpose of the group was to describe nurses’ contribution to the national strategy concerning eHealth development and implementation in health and social care. The group discussed strategic issues, wrote drafts, and sent texts for open comments. The chosen themes of the eHealth strategy deal with the role of the client, nursing practice, ethical aspects, education and eHealth competences, nursing leadership, knowledge management, research and development. In the course of the strategic work, there were lot of discussions about client and patient as concepts. In the strategy, it was chosen to use the concept “client”.

The eHealth strategy wants to give the citizen a more central role in his/her own health, with the help of professionals when needed. Patients are increasingly involved in decision-making, sharing power and responsibility in the caring process. Nurses work closely with patients in many surroundings, from hospital to home settings. This gives nurses a strong role in the multidisciplinary groups when developing new patient-centred services. The strategy also pointed out ethical and privacy issues, and recognized the risks related to massive use of digitalised health services.

FNA’s eHealth strategy also wanted to point out the professional leader’s important role in developing new healthcare e-services, to help clients to receive health and care services in a flexible way.

Security and ethical aspects are an important key element to e-services. Without trust, e-services will not bring up new solutions to health care. It is important to have continuous development and research in this field.

FNA’s strategy wants to take part in the discussion nationally and internationally. How can we all take full advantage of existing services, without the traditional way of working and expertise of the health personnel being obstacles but, instead, nurses to develop e-services nationally and internationally. In EU’s single market, it is a main target and challenge to all EU countries and it should create new possibilities in distributing eHealth services, nationally and worldwide. Finnish
nurses want to be part of that development path as the way to go for better health care services to all citizens in Finland and in the EU.

**Pirkko Kouri**, PhD, PHN, RN, Savonia University of Applied Sciences
Vice-President, International Society for the Telemedicine and eHealth
Secretary, Finnish Society for Telemedicine and eHealth,
Vice-Chair, eHealth Strategy Group of FNA

**Outi Ahonen**, MNSc, RN, Laurea University of Applied Sciences
Member of the Council of the Finnish Nurses Association
Chair, eHealth Strategy Group of FNA

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**Thank you to our leaving ISfTeH board members**

**Prof. Rifat Latifi** has served on the ISfTeH Board for one term of 3 years, representing the institutional members. He has also acted as Vice-President of the Board in 2015.

**Dr. Moretlo Molefi** has served on the ISfTeH Board since 2008, first representing the institutional members, and then re-elected by the Board as co-opted member between 2013 and 2015. She also served as the first woman on the Board of the ISfTeH.

**Frank Lievens** was elected to the very first Board of the ISfTeH in 2003 representing the individual members and served as Treasurer, and since 2008 also as Secretary, till end 2015. After 12 years he decided not to seek re-election, leaving place for a new individual member to participate in the leadership of the Society. In order to capitalize on his long time experience, the ISfTeH continues to rely on Frank as part of the Executive Secretariat of the Society, together with Frederic Lievens and with Executive Director, Yunkap Kwankam, and Executive Vice-Director and Head of Business Development, Andreas Faller.

The ISfTeH is grateful to these three valuable members for their constant devotion and input to the Society and its members. We look forward to their continued involvement and support as eminent members of our global Telemedicine and eHealth community.

Dr. Andy Fischer
President
ISfTeH
The annual ISfTeH rendez-vous is just around the corner: Med-e-Tel 2016

This year's edition of the ISfTeH's annual Med-e-Tel event is taking place next week, on April 6-8, 2016 in Luxembourg (with pre-conference workshops on April 5th). There is still time to register for the event at www.medetel.eu.

The complete Med-e-Tel conference program can be found here. For a list of exhibitors and sponsors, click here.

Med-e-Tel also has a local/regional focus, in collaboration with the Luxembourg National eHealth Agency (Agence eSanté), who are responsible for implementing Luxembourg's national eHealth strategy and rolling out a shared medical record and improving interoperability among healthcare information systems and providers. At Med-e-Tel, they will be hosting two conference sessions, on cross-border healthcare and on connected objects/connected health.

For more information, go to www.medetel.eu or contact info@medetel.eu.

Upcoming ISfTeH meetings and conferences

Med-e-Tel 2016
6-8 April 2016
Luxembourg, Luxembourg
www.medetel.eu

21th ISfTeH International Conference in conjunction with 7th International Conference on Transforming Health with IT
21-22 October 2016
Chennai, India
www.transformhealth-it.org

Other ISfTeH supported events:
Nordic eHealth 2016. 21st Finnish National Conference on Telemedicine & eHealth
14-16 April 2016
Onbaord M/S Mariella, Baltic See between Helsinki-Stockholm-Helsinki, Finland
www.telemedicine.fi/en/national-conferences/283-
Corporate Member Spotlight

Avizia is pleased to become a corporate member of the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth. We look forward to a productive partnership with the ISfTeH, working to raise the awareness level of telehealth solutions globally.

Avizia spun out of Cisco Systems almost three years ago in order to focus on the telehealth market. We offer the only end-to-end telehealth platform that integrates care coordination software and industry-leading video end-points. By providing clinical teams with the tools to not only provide care over distance but also coordinate that care via workflow software, Avizia provides a unique platform for patient care.

Headquartered in the USA, Avizia has customers in 36 countries around the globe. As we bring products to market, we fully certify them with international standards to ensure safe and secure transactions. With the ability to transmit data at lower bandwidths, we are able to offer services to customers in remote clinics as well as to health systems in congested cities, where bandwidth is available but it is not easy or convenient for the patient to visit the clinician.
From scheduling patients to delivering care and tracking recovery, our software covers the care continuum from clinic to home and from patient visit to electronic health record integration. We also provide integrated care specific to service lines such as behavioral health, tele-stroke, tele-cardiology, etc.

As populations around the globe age and become more ill and fragile, delivering care from the point of initial diagnosis and treatment to home care and monitoring of care is becoming a larger health burden. As telehealth is seen as a normative option for care delivery, this health burden can be addressed and, potentially, decreased.

Avizia understands that it is important to our customers that we are aware of the clinical context of telehealth delivery and, therefore, have several clinicians on our staff to guide the customer experience. Our goal is to augment and enhance both the clinician and patient experience of care over distance and we are fully committed to creating this positive experience.

With our new partnership with the ISfTeH, we expect to remain on the forefront of global telehealth solutions and look forward to a fruitful partnership. For more information on Avizia, please contact Kerrie Hora, Business Development Director, at kerrie@avizia.com or Debra Sloane, Global Strategy Manager, at mdebra@avizia.com.

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**Video: The Global Demand for Tele-Pediatric Care**

*From infancy thru adolescence and into young adulthood, the ability to access quality care can often determine if a child will mature healthy, or be afflicted with a lifelong condition that might have otherwise been avoided. Providers worldwide are using telehealth to break down barriers and find unique new ways to reach children and their parents.*

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**National Member Spotlight**

The Iran eHealth Association was founded in 2012 by a group of professors, scholars and researchers in related fields in order to promote and develop scientific improvements in the eHealth field. It also aims at qualitative developments of specialist human sources and improving educational and research activities in different eHealth fields in Iran.

The chairman of the board is Dr. Seyed Shahabdin Sadr who was the former president of The Islamic Republic of Iran Medical Council, a Member of Parliament of Iran and the former
Dr. Mahmood Khoda Dost, Dr. Mohammad Hasan Ghadyani, Dr. Mohammad Golshani, Dr. Ali Yazdani, Dr. Ahmad Sheybani, Dr. Mohammad Reza Kheradmand, Dr. Seyed Mohammad Hosein Sadr are part of the Board of Directors.

The successful First International Conference on eHealth, by the Iranian Medical Council (chaired by Dr. Sadr), held on 9 and 10 December of 2012 in Tehran, was a major impetus to the establishment and formation of the Iran eHealth Association. The President of the Congress was Dr. Sadr and scientific secretary was Dr. Hanafi Zadeh. The conference had around 16 Scientific Research Committees and Executive Committees and was attended by professors, scholars and experts from home and abroad for the first time in Iran.

The second national conference on eHealth was held on 14-16 December 2015 and the international section will be held in 2016 or 2017.

Iran is located in the heart of the Middle East in Asia. The population is around 80 million and the area is exactly 1,648,195 square kilometers. Iran has 31 provinces, four-season climate, huge number of historical places, naturally attractive areas, mines of valuable elements and rich reservoirs of oil and gas. Persian Gulf is the golden key that connects Iran to free oceans. These are just some of many points that have made Iran a very important country in the region. Historically speaking, Iran's name had always been famous as a pioneer country in the field of medical, astronomical, mathematical and similar sciences from ancient time ago and now is the most modern one in the medical field in the Middle East.

Brazilian Journal of Telehealth

The Brazilian Journal of Telehealth (Jornal Brasileiro de Telessaude) is an official journal of the Rio de Janeiro State University. Contributions from around the world are accepted in order to share information on how different countries are using new technology in health care.

Sections within the journal include editorials, original articles, review articles and theses abstracts related to research at post-graduate level in university programs in telehealth and eLearning. A subscription to this journal will help you to stay in touch with Brazilian and international eHealth initiatives. Brazil is now engaged to national and regional e-health programs, including from primary health care to specialized telediagnosis.

The Journal is published quarterly. The articles are published in Portuguese and/or in English. All abstracts are written in English.

The annals of the CBTmS15 congress (held in conjunction with the 20th ISfTeH International Conference in Rio de Janeiro last October) will be published in a next edition of the Journal.

New book: A Century of Telemedicine

The ISfTeH presents a new 341-page book providing an overview of Telemedicine history over 100 years, authored by Anton Vladzymyrskyy, Malina Jordanova, Frank Lievens: “A Century
Board Member Spotlight - Meet Ass. Prof. Piotr Henryk Skarzynski

I got my MD at the Medical University of Warsaw in 2008, MSc in Department of Management of University of Warsaw (finished in 2010), PhD in 2012 and Ass. Prof. in 2015, both in Medical University of Warsaw.

I realize scientific, clinical and surgical work in World Hearing Centre of Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing as a resident, Medical University of Warsaw as an Assistant and Academic teacher, and Institute of Sensory Organs as a Director of Science and Development.

I am an active member of many scientific societies, including the position of Vice Chairman, Junior European Rhinology Society from 2010, Member of the Board from 2014, Member of Congress and Meeting Department of European Academy of Otology and Neuro-Otology from 2014. I am also a Board Member of the International Society for Telemedicine &eHealth.

I am an active participant of many national and international conferences with over 842 presentations and posters, 35 round tables, and an instructor on 25 international courses. I am an author and co-author of 266 scientific publications in specialist national and international journals - Impact Factor 72,439, Index Copernicus 604,90, Ministry of Polish Science and Higher Education points 1787, including 19 publications about different aspects in telemedicine and e-health. I am a reviewer in 9 international scientific journal and one national journal in the field of otorhinolaryngology.

I execute numerous national and international projects connected with telemedicine and eHealth, including teleconsultations, telerehabilitation and telefitting in numerous European, Asian and African countries. It is noteworthy that hearing screening and teleconsultations, performed in Bishkek and Dushanbe, were the first telemedical objective measures of hearing in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Furthermore, I made every effort to organise and perform teleconsultations in African countries. Therefore, hearing screening and numerous teleconsultations were performed in Senegal (March 2014), Ivory Coast (March 2014), Rwanda and Tanzania (both in 2015). I also entered negotiations with African research units about the international collaboration, including an implementation and development of teleconsultations, telerehabilitation and telefitting in Africa. The possibility of scientific exchange between two countries and organization of next hearing screening programs were also discussed.

I coordinate and manage the multifaceted telefitting procedures in the frame of International
Centre of Hearing and Speech Medicine, collaborating with centres in Poland and abroad: in Kajetany, Warsaw, Szczecin, Gdansk, Olsztyn, Opole, Rzeszow, Katowice, Radom, Krakow, Odessa (Ukraine) and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). I am proud to be one of twenty winners of the competition for the best manager organized by "Bloomberg Businessweek Polska" in 2015. I am also a member of researching and working group of Nationwide Network of Teleaudiology. I take different activities to improve and develop telemedicine in the country (20 Polish cities) and in the world, including centres in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. I also try to improve the teleaudiology net between World Hearing Centre in Poland and Asian, European and African centres.

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**Tribute to Bob Pyke Jr.**

Bob Pyke, to us and to many others, is synonymous with telehealth news, trivia and relentlessly scanning the horizon of what's out there in telehealth and telemedicine. Sadly, Bob passed away last January, after living with ALS for the past year and a half.

A nurse by profession, Bob was passionate about telehealth. He was one of the initiators of the ISfTeH Telenursing Working Group, which has grown ever since and which is now also closely tied in with the ICN Telenursing Network, and which is one of the very active Working Groups of the ISfTeH.

We were also very fortunate to have Bob as an active supporter of the ISfTeHs annual Med-e-Tel conference, where, during several years, he also assisted in the organization of the event and facilitated contacts with various healthcare organizations and companies in the US and worldwide and helped to shape the Med-e-Tel conference programs.

We're pleased to say that some of what the ISfTeH has accomplished in the past and what we're still doing today, is thanks to Bob!

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**3rd European Congress on eCardiology & eHealth**

eHealth is presently reshaping the way doctors and medical professionals work or interact between themselves and with their patients, thanks to new tools and data. There is a strong need to close the enormous gap between great technical progress and limited clinical application. This congress aims to contribute to a major step forward in this regard by bringing the various stakeholders together.

Clinicians will learn about the most important tools in eCardiology and eHealth to improve their daily work, for the benefit of their patients, whilst researchers, technicians, industry partners, health authorities and regulators, alike, will learn from clinicians what their real needs are.

The **third European Congress on eCardiology and eHealth** is dedicated to the use of eHealth solutions in every aspect of cardiovascular care such as prevention, diagnosis, risk assessment, monitoring, education, counselling and treatment. Join the congress and present on or learn about new technological platforms, products and/or services in eHealth, focusing on...
eCardiology, and, thereby, contributing to build a stronger bridge, connecting clinicians and other key stakeholders. Become an active leader in the translation of technology into real-world, clinical applications, to further improve cardiovascular patient care and clinical outcomes.

**TOPICS**

1. Basic research, Technologies, Informatics, Platforms, Big data
2. ECG techniques and applications
3. Regulation and Health Policy
4. Electronic Health Records, Medical Databases
5. eLearning, Clinical Decision Support
6. Security, Safety and Data Protection
7. Mobile Health
8. Risk Factors, Rehabilitation and Prevention
9. Remote Patient Management: Heart Failure and Devices
10. Acute Cardiac Care, Interventional Cardiology, Imaging

**CONTRIBUTE TO SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE**

Present your research at the 3rd European Congress on eCardiology and eHealth for a chance to be published in the supplement of the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology.

Objective: improving the standard of patient care using eHealth in the cardiovascular field. The event are open to cardiovascular clinicians, healthcare professionals (technicians, biomedical, engineers, statisticians, nurses, etc.), technology developers, etc.

6 June 2016 - Abstract submission deadline
6 July 2016 - Abstract results

For more information: www.e-cardiohealth.com

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**New ISfTeH members**

The ISfTeH is pleased to welcome the following new members to its global network:

**Corporate Members:**

![Avizia](image)

**Individual Members:**

Robert Floyd, USA
Henryk Skarzynski, Poland
Kukhwan Mieusset, Switzerland
Nadeem Nazir, Pakistan
Fernando Kochhann Stoffels, Brazil
Niall Campbell, United Kingdom
Siti Maon, Malaysia
Naffisah Mohd Hassan, Malaysia

**Nurse Members:**

Linda Arredondo, USA
Connie Chu, Hong Kong
Nweje Ifeyinwa Sussan, Nigeria
Lisa Darsch, USA
Bipinkumar Rathod, India
Ana Maria Radulescu, Romania

**Student Members:**

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André Luiz Leonhardt dos Santos, Brazil
Tatiana Fenêtre, France
Thibaut Bouvry, France
Gillian Chin, United Kingdom
Camille Deguy, France
Benjamin Schanker, USA
Jeremy Barnerias, France
Alan Bruzac, France
Simon Moore, South Africa
Hnin Yu Lwin, Thailand
Enkelejed Cocaj, Kosova
Nina Sesto, France
Stefan Hardt, Germany
Nicolas Achkar, Spain
Fatema Emrose Nisha, Bangladesh
Edward Ofori, Finland
Rui Morte, Portugal

Click here for full member list or to join as a new member.

Join the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth

- Are you heading a national or regional telemedicine/eHealth organization?
- Do you offer telemedicine products and solutions?
- Are you doing research on telemedicine and eHealth applications and technologies?
- Does your organization provide (or wants to offer) care services by means of telemedicine/eHealth technologies?
- Are you engaged in healthcare policy?

If so, you should consider joining the ISfTeH network to expand your global reach, enhance your network, broaden your knowledge and learn about key issues and new ideas in telemedicine and eHealth by interacting and engaging in partnerships with other ISfTeH members from around the world.

Or if you are interested in obtaining exposure in future editions of this newsletter (through advertising, feature articles, etc.), contact us at info@isfteh.org.

For more information: www.isfteh.org

Partners & Corporate Members

The ISfTeH is proud to work together with the following Partners, representing doctors, nurses, students, industry and policy makers:

AEMH
Continua
Diplomatic Council
EJD
ENSAM

ISfTeH Corporate Members and supporters:
If your organization would like to collaborate with the ISfTeH or if you would like to become a member, contact us at info@isfteh.org.

Questions, suggestions? Our board members listen to you!

The ISfTeH board members will be pleased to hear from you with any questions or suggestions you may have related to the Society itself or regarding any telemedicine and eHealth applications or services that you are working on or that you are looking for:

Andy Fischer  
Pirkko Kouri  
Andre Petitet  
Markus Lindlar  
Anthony Maeder  
Roberto Rocci  
Piotr Skarzynski  
Adolfo Sparenberg  
Regina Ungerer  
Rajendra Pratap Gupta  
Mina Abdulla Hamoodi

Management Board
Submit your questions/suggestions via info@isfteh.org.

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**ISfTeH Lifetime Achievement Awards**

The ISfTeH occasionally recognizes and honours a person who has made great efforts in the development of telemedicine and eHealth, creating awareness and driving its implementation and use. Our three Lifetime Achievement Award laureates so far are:

- **Louis Lareng**
- **Ron Merrell**
- **Gyorgy Miklos Bohm**

Watch this space for future ISfTeH Lifetime Achievement Awards!

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**STAY CONNECTED:**

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Join the ISfTeH Global Network
Click here for membership application

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