

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.



International Society for
Telemedicine & eHealth

NGO in Official Relations with WHO



Updates from the ISfTeH Global Telemedicine & eHealth Network (April 2017)

Read in this issue about *what happened at Med-e-Tel*, a new ISfTeH partnership to support health equity, new issue of the *JISfTeH*, book on history of telemedicine, ISfTeH Lifetime Achievement Award for telemedicine pioneer from India, invitation to participate in multicenter clinical trial, webinar on impact of telemedicine in infectious disease, ISfTeH supported events, and more. Enjoy reading!

STAY CONNECTED:



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Reader,

As you will know, earlier this month we held this year's edition of our annual Med-e-Tel conference, the 15th already in a series of eventful meetings that extends back to 2002. Med-e-Tel remains a cornerstone of the annual calendar of the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth.

The ISfTeH was joined on the podium at the Med-e-Tel Opening Ceremony by long-term partner, the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as *Agence eSanté Luxembourg* (Luxembourg's National eHealth Agency). The culmination of this session were the ISfTeH Awards. Every so often, we honor outstanding contributions over an extended period of time, to the cause of bringing technology to bear positively on health, through the ISfTeH Lifetime Achievement Award, which was awarded this year to telemedicine pioneer and Founder/Chairman of the Apollo Hospitals Group, Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, who has brought world class healthcare to India, in part through numerous telemedicine and telehealth services and initiatives (...read more about it further down in this newsletter). And while recognizing past achievements, we also looked to the future with the Medgate Student Award, bestowed upon Jonathan Teoh from the University of Melbourne who won last year's ISfTeH Student Webconference Session (during Med-e-Tel 2016) with his presentation on "*Cost Effectiveness Analysis of Implementing Teledentistry for Rural Paediatric Patients in Victoria, Australia.*"

The Opening Plenary Session of the conference featured a report on the *results of the third WHO global survey on eHealth* (presented by Misha Kay, Head of WHO's Global Observatory for eHealth), to which the ISfTeH made important contributions; a presentation on *European eHealth Policy in the Context of the Digital Single Market* by Miguel Gonzalez-Sancho, Head of eHealth, Wellbeing and Ageing at the European Commission's DG CNECT; the Apollo Story and a look at *Telehealth for one Sixth of Humanity* by ApolloHospitals' Joint Managing Director, Sangita Reddy;

Agence eSanté Luxembourg's engagement in EU projects as well as local initiatives in Luxembourg; experiences with the SES Techcom's *SATMED Global eHealth Platform*; and a presentation by mHealth Quality (France) on their *assessment process and quality mark for mHealth Apps*.

During a second plenary session on the morning of the second day of the conference, a panel did a deep dive into "*Teleconsultation*" (doctor visits via videoconferencing, phone, internet, etc.). The expert panelists, who shared their experiences and solutions, included ISfTeH members Medgate, International SOS, Telstra ReadyCare, HOPI Medical, as well as other providers of such services (Comarch Healthcare, Telehealth Network of Minas Gerais, Swedish Telepsychiatry, Mayo Clinic, ViViDoctor). The session covered the essentials of providing teleconsultation services - business/financing models, user experience, operational procedures, technical solutions, and much more.

A returning and successful feature at Med-e-Tel was the session on "*Pharmacy and m/eHealth*", presented in collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU), whose mission is to advance the cause of the community pharmacy in European health systems. PGEU brought its members together to present and discuss several m/eHealth applications and services that are currently used or implemented in European community pharmacies.

The Agence eSanté Luxembourg further underscored its relationship with the ISfTeH through its strong presence in the Med-e-Tel expo, and by presenting conference sessions on "*Digital Health Tools in Oncology - Contributing to a Better Patient Experience*" and "*Big Data for the Benefit of Public Health*".

Various ISfTeH working groups (WGs) highlighted their work, with sessions focused on their specific areas of interest. Thus, the Telenursing WG and the Working Group on Women (WoW), hosted a session on "*Telenursing, Women's and Maternal Health*"; a session on "*Teleaudiology*" was coordinated by the Teleaudiology WG; the Open Source WG hosted a stand on "*Open Source Software Solutions in Healthcare*" in the Exhibition and Networking area; and the Student WG coordinated the 10th edition of the "*Students Webconferencing Session*", from which the new winner of the Medgate Award was selected.

Finally, the **Med-e-Tel Exhibition and Networking area** hosted various companies and organizations, showing off their solutions and sharing information about their products and activities. As always, the conference sessions, the exhibition area and, above all, the engagement of the participants, together made Med-e-Tel one of the best value-for-money conferences in the digital health space, having participants return home with full appreciation of why the event has been dubbed, the international eHealth, telemedicine and health ICT forum for education, networking and business. More information about the program is available at www.medetel.eu (copies of the presentations will be added soon).

We look forward to meeting you at our next events and to welcoming you as a member in the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth!

Sincerely,

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

New papers published in the Journal of the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth (JISfTeH)



New papers have been published in Vol. 5 (2017) of the JISfTeH, including a special theme on "Women in eHealth", as well as abstracts and papers from the Med-e-Tel 2017 conference.

The Journal and papers are freely accessible at www.jisfteh.org (free registration required to access the full text papers).

Read the Journal's **Editorial** and the call for volunteers to assist with some of the editorial and administrative work on the Journal. For more information on how you can get involved, contact the Journal's Editor, Prof. Maurice Mars at mars@jisfteh.org.

A Century of Telemedicine: A World Wide Overview - Part I

The book "*A Century of Telemedicine: A World Wide Overview - Part I*" is the first in a new series dedicated to a detailed presentation of Telemedicine and eHealth history in various countries. The chapters reveal different national and cultural points of view in the development and implementation of Telemedicine/eHealth solutions. This new series was inspired by an original monograph dedicated to deep scientific analysis of the **history of telemedicine technologies worldwide**. *Part I* provides a glimpse and summarizes good practice, existing solutions and experiences in six countries: Australia, Brazil, Czech Republic, India, Nigeria and Russia. The goal is to share these national experiences with international, national and regional health institutions and policy makers.



The book was introduced earlier this month at the Med-e-Tel 2017 conference and is available for purchase. Contents and preface can be found [here](#). Contact info@isfteh.org for more information or to obtain a copy.

22nd ISfTeH International Conference to be held in Casablanca, Morocco (6-8 December 2017)



This year's edition (the 22nd) of the ISfTeH International Conference will take place in Casablanca, Morocco on December 6-8, 2017.

Hosted by the Moroccan Society for Telemedicine & eHealth (national member for Morocco in the ISfTeH), the MeHealth 2017 conference will present practical experiences and research results in the field of Telemedicine and eHealth solutions, and provide opportunities for healthcare providers, industry representatives, policy makers, researchers and scientists to meet and discuss current projects, research, and new concepts and ideas in Telemedicine, Telehealth and m/eHealth.

Attend the MeHealth 2017 conference to share information about your own projects and initiatives and to learn from others. MeHealth 2017 will bring together members of the Moroccan Society for Telemedicine & eHealth, the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth and a range of other local and international institutions and organizations who are involved in Telemedicine/eHealth development and implementation.

More information about abstract submission and other details of the conference will be made available soon on the conference website at www.msfteh.org/mehealth2017. For more information, contact info@isfteh.org.

Telemedicine pioneer from India honoured with ISfTeH Lifetime Achievement Award

During the Opening Ceremony of this year's Med-e-Tel conference in Luxembourg, the ISfTeH honoured Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Founder and Chairman of the Apollo Hospitals Group, with the ISfTeH Lifetime Achievement Award. Sangita Reddy, daughter of Dr. Reddy and Joint Managing Director of the Apollo Hospitals Group, accepted the award on behalf of her father.



Dr. Reddy is a cardiologist and entrepreneur who founded the first corporate chain of hospitals in India - the Apollo Hospitals Group. He revolutionized the health care scenario of India and inspired others to follow suit. Today, India has over 750 corporate hospitals all over the country. He received his medical degree from the Stanley Medical College in Chennai and later trained as a cardiologist in the UK and USA. He returned to India in 1978.

Starting from a 150-bedded Hospital in 1983, the Group has since continuously excelled and maintained leadership in medical innovation, clinical services and cutting edge research. With a network of over 9500 beds across 57 hospitals at culturally diverse locations in India and

overseas, over 4000 top class clinicians and total employee strength of more than 65,000 professionals, the Apollo Hospitals Group is one of the largest hospital groups in the world, being consistently ranked among the best hospitals for advanced medical services. These hospitals have served over 40 million patients from 120 countries, with eight of them having the prestigious JCI accreditation.

Dr. Reddy has been responsible for bringing about institutional changes in the private healthcare infrastructure by, inter alia, establishing Apollo Institutes for Post Graduate Medical and Nursing Education, Hospital Administration, Physiotherapy, Clinical Research and a large number of Paramedical Programs. With the setting up of the Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation, Health Super Hiway, Apollo DKV Insurance Co. and the Apollo Reach Hospitals, the Apollo Group (primarily identified as a healthcare provider) is today a leading provider of healthcare solutions, inclusive of next generation healthcare IT solutions and services. These have helped establish a modern healthcare network through both in-house and outreach services, reaching out to millions of people. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1991 for his contribution to the emergence of the private healthcare sector and his role in bringing about several regulatory changes relating to licensing, import restrictions, organ transplantation, etc. He has received innumerable other awards. As Chairman of the CII National Healthcare Committee since 2006, Dr. Reddy constituted sub-committees for drawing up standards for accreditation of Indian Hospitals for the first time in the country did some commendable work in the areas of medical value travel and medical code of ethics. One of the areas of impact has been in the area of budget recommendations to the Government and health insurance. In November 2009, the Government of India honored the pioneering spirit of the Apollo Hospitals Group with the release of a postage stamp.

Dr. Reddy was conferred with second highest civilian award, the "Padma Vibhushan" in March 2010. This unequalled commendation from the Government of India is an acknowledgement of his untiring pursuit for excellence in healthcare as Apollo strives towards touching a billion lives. Under his leadership, the Apollo Group has undertaken philanthropic work through 'Save a Child's Heart Foundation' (SACH), the "CURE Foundation" for cancer care, the Indian Head Injury Foundation (IHIF), 'Distance Healthcare Advancement' (DISHA) and many others that have touched the lives of several hundred thousand children, differently-abled people, cancer and brain trauma patients.

He has encouraged the growth and development of the Apollo Telemedicine Networking Foundation the largest and oldest multi-specialty Telehealth Network in South Asia. ATNF is today recognized nationally and internationally for its pioneering work in provide remote health care using ICT. Through several PPP initiatives ATNF is helping the central and state governments to provide quality health care in isolated areas. The Apollo Group has one of the largest IT departments in the health care industry with a very high level of digitization. ATNF an institutional member of the ISfTeH has hosted the annual ISfTeH conference in 2007 and again in 2016.

International SOS launches digital consultation service from Aberdeen Health Centre



International SOS - ISfTeH member and leading medical and travel security risk services company - has introduced a new Digital Consultation Service, which safeguards patient health and wellbeing while reducing operational costs. The secure telemedicine platform, performed from the Aberdeen Health Centre, provides video conferencing to perform return to work and routine occupational health consultations, which are often required by international oil and gas firms.

Dr. Shirley Kong, Senior Medical Officer at International SOS, said: "It can be time-consuming for a patient to physically attend a consultation appointment, particularly if they have to take time between assignments to travel to the clinic. Digital Consultations prioritise patient wellbeing and safety regardless of geographical distance as well as offering cost efficiencies for organisations. Digital Consultations also allow us to implement clear consistency and clinical governance - from the consent process to triage and clinical support."

Patients can access the Digital Consultation Service from anywhere in the world to securely and easily communicate with a medical specialist. The service can be accessed on a range of mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, as well as laptops and PCs, and in low bandwidth areas. The Digital Consultations Service works seamlessly with a suite of medical services for patients who may require more than a video conferencing appointment for occupational health purposes or before returning to work.

Dr. Michael Braid, Regional Medical Director at International SOS, said: "The International SOS

Digital Consultations Service is a welcome development as it ensures unparalleled health and safety measures can coexist alongside efficient resource allocation."

For more information about International SOS' telehealth services, go to www.internationalsos.com/telehealth.

Invitation to participate in a multicenter study focused on early detection of endothelial dysfunction



Cardiovascular diseases are the most common cause of death and physical incapacity in many countries, with vascular obstructive stenosis affecting cerebrovascular, coronary and other arterial territories. High cardiovascular risk people, like smokers or those suffering from diabetes mellitus are victims of lower limbs arterial obstructive disease, which causes a long period in absence of both symptoms or clinical evidence.

Early stage diagnosis, obtained through non-invasive strategies have been proposed as a means of diagnosing incipient vascular occlusion and endothelial dysfunction in general. Since 2012, as a result of a public private partnership between a regional hospital in Zdar nad Sazavou (22,000 inhabitants, central Czech Republic, with one of the highest incidence of diabetes mellitus, diabetic foot and related lower limb amputations), Vienna Point Science Park, and Advanced Medical Solutions (AMS), a preventive telemedical program was prepared, implemented and put into operation with positive results.

The partners in this initiative invite healthcare providers both rural and municipal for participation in the preventive program based on early stage non-invasive detection of endothelial dysfunction with a specific focus on high risk patients, mainly diabetes melitus II.

Main objectives are:

- analyze the applicability of a noninvasive diagnostic strategy for the early detection of arterial flow reduction in a rural population
- introduce a system of therapy adherence support
- introduce a long term sustainable preventive program
- introduce an integrative telemedicine platform allowing diagnostics, data storage, monitoring of patients in the natural environment and transmission for specialized second opinion
- promote technical qualification of remote professionals of health sector in the field of new technologies.

If you would like to get involved or if you want more information about the project, contact Tomas Bohrn at bohrn@amsolutions.cz.

AMD Global Telemedicine announces new, major release and enhancements to AGNES Interactive



AMD Global Telemedicine Inc., pioneer of clinical Telemedicine Encounter Management Solutions (TEMS) and long-time ISfTeH member, announces their latest release of AGNES Interactive software. The new release provides users with dramatically enhanced features and additional functionality that deepens third party integrations and expands collaboration between patients and healthcare providers.

AGNES Interactive is web-based telemedicine software that aggregates medical device data and shares it in real time with the remote physician(s). New features of AGNES Interactive include; integrated third-party video conferencing - utilizing Vidyo as its first use case; significantly enhanced system Utilization Reporting; and a universal mechanism for capturing and integrating all telemedicine encounter data with EMR systems.

"This latest release of AGNES Interactive truly does open up tremendous opportunities of enhanced integrations for telemedicine," commented Eric Bacon, President of AMD Global Telemedicine. "It brings together telemedicine technology, software-based video conferencing and healthcare documentation (EMRs) into a single user experience," continued Bacon.

VidyoWeb is accessed directly through AGNES Interactive, as a "Browser within a Browser" application. This provides users with all of the Vidyo features including multi-point video conferencing, single sign-on and remote camera controls, right inside the AGNES Interactive platform and interface.

The new Universal EMR filing feature allows any EMR capable of importing PDF documents, to receive a compiled report detailing all data captured during patient assessment. In a single step, information from the telemedicine encounter is ready to be stored with the patient's record.

For more information, see www.amdtelemedicine.com.

ISfTeH and Global Health Equity Foundation form new partnership



A Memorandum of Understanding between the ISfTeH and the Global Health Equity Foundation (GHEF) was signed recently at the ISfTeH's Board Meeting held in Luxembourg during the Med-e-Tel Conference.

GHEF is a philanthropic organization dedicated to research, advocacy and capacity building. The Foundation's integrated approach raises awareness about inequities in health, and also provides practical guidelines for making tangible improvements in global health equity. GHEF is a primary resource for building and sharing knowledge that reduces gradients and gaps in health equity. The Foundation explores new methodologies and technology that may be deployed to avert inequities. GHEF promotes the concept that equity in health is a core principle for the advancement of human society. GHEF hosts an annual symposium and other events, and publishes GHEF Annals based on symposia proceedings.

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate collaboration between GHEF and ISfTeH in achieving the organizations' shared objectives, namely advancing global health equity and enhancing equitable access to quality health care for all, particularly through harnessing the potential of eHealth approaches and interventions.

The envisaged collaboration includes organizing joint events, developing and implementing joint projects, producing joint publications as well as sharing information with each other on activities and opportunities, and supporting each other in promoting relevant priorities and strategies.

This partnership will strengthen the two partner organizations by exposing them to each other's content, membership and programs. Working together will enable both ISfTeH and GHEF to complement their individual strengths and resources, and extend their reach in realizing the equity potential of eHealth.

For more information on the organizations, go to www.isfteh.org and www.ghef.org or contact info@isfteh.org.

Impact of telemedicine in infectious disease and bacterial resistance



Earlier this week, the ISfTeH and several of its Working Groups (Students, Telenursing, Social Media) presented a webinar on the "**impact of telemedicine in infectious disease and bacterial resistance**". The webinar was presented by Prof. Dr. Rodrigo Santos from the Instituto de Cardiologia (Porto Alegre, Brazil).

A recording of the webinar can be accessed via the AnyMeeting platform at www.anymeeting.com/AccountManager/RegEv.aspx?PIID=ED50DB81864E38 (registration required).

ISfTeH Students Webconference Session (and Medgate Award) celebrates 10 year anniversary at Med-e-Tel 2017



The ISfTeH Students Working Group celebrated the 10th edition of its "**ISfTeH Students**

Webconference Session" at this year's **Med-e-Tel** conference. Through this outstanding initiative over the past 10 years, 50 students from around the world have had a chance of remotely presenting and bringing to the international community the results of their eHealth projects and research. This ISfTeH Students Webconference session (held each year at Med-e-Tel) and other webinar activities of the ISfTeH Students WG come with the perspective of accelerating the eHealth teaching/learning process internationally.

The Webconference session is quoted by a jury and the winner receives an Award (trophy and money prize that allows the winner to participate in person at the next Med-e-Tel conference) provided by leading Swiss telemedicine provider **Medgate**. This year, **Tanjir Soron** from **Bangladesh** won the Medgate Award through a presentation titled: **Telepsychiatry - From a Dream to Reality in Bangladesh**.



Earlier at Med-e-Tel (during the Opening Ceremony), Jonathan Teoh of Melbourne, Australia received the 2016 Medgate Students Award (after winning last year's ISfTeH Student Webconference Session).

For more information about the ISfTeH Students WG and how you can become a member, or how you can support this WG and its activities, contact info@isfteh.org.

Avizia launches new software development kit that empowers health systems to increase patient access to care



ISfTeH member and end-to-end telehealth solution provider, **Avizia**, launched earlier this year a new software development kit that enables health systems to integrate Avizia's premier telehealth capabilities into their own mobile applications. A solution for providers looking to improve the consumer health experience, the Avizia **Virtual Care SDK** adds valuable features to mobile apps while connecting to the Avizia ONE **telehealth platform** to effectively and efficiently scale and manage telehealth services.

"More and more health systems are turning to telehealth to improve the consumer experience; but to succeed they need a solution to deliver virtual care on mobile devices," said Avizia CEO and Co-Founder Mike Baird. "Our team developed the Virtual Care SDK with our customer's needs in mind. It seamlessly integrates into our Avizia ONE SaaS platform to give patients access to their care team no matter where they are in the world - that means care when they need it most and not a moment later."

As a part of this new solution, app developers and IT teams can quickly integrate Avizia's video capabilities and user interface into the applications they already have. In addition to this, care providers have the ability to control and tailor the telehealth experience of their patients to meet their unique needs - from app design to features available.

What's more, care providers can use the Virtual Care SDK to enable telehealth over numerous use cases, including:

- **Surgical follow-up:** After a surgery, patients are expected to have one or more follow-up visits, but as they feel better they may skip their follow-up appointments. As a result, unused appointments and exam rooms aren't available for waiting patients. Health systems using the Virtual Care SDK can offer patients a more convenient way to attend their follow-up visits by video from anywhere, reducing the number of missed visits.
- **Urgent care:** Sore throats and fevers cannot always wait until normal office hours. Through a hospital's mobile application, patients can access care from anywhere at any time. The Avizia Virtual Care SDK empowers health systems to offer patients direct access to providers in their network with complete access to their medical history.
- **Medical management and lab results:** Managing prescriptions or obtaining lab results can be a time-consuming process for patients. Consumers typically take time off work to travel to the hospital or doctor's office for a short appointment. With the Virtual Care SDK, a mobile telehealth application gives patients the option to have these consultations quickly and remotely.

"At Avizia, we're constantly looking for innovative ways to improve how care is delivered and to make it more accessible," said Avizia's Chief Product Officer and Co-Founder Cory Costley. "As more health providers move to a patient-centric model of care, mobile applications will be key to providing quality care from anywhere at any time."

For more information, see www.avizia.com.

Institutional Member Spotlight - RUDN University

The **Peoples' Friendship University of Russia** (PFUR, also known as RUDN) became an institutional member of the ISfTeH in 2016. RUDN is one of the leading state higher education institutions of Russia. It is the only university in the world gathering every year students from up to 150 countries.



The Department of Medical Informatics and Telemedicine at the Medical Faculty teaches the basics of telemedicine for young physicians. Students from South Africa, UK, Finland, Namibia and other countries have already been trained on how to organize telemedicine centers.

More than 100 video lectures are conducted each year with leading universities of the world. Students have the opportunity to attend online transmission of operations in real time, as well as observe eye surgery through interactive online broadcasts.

In May 2017, RUDN organizes the 25th International School of Telemedicine. The course is aimed at professionals in the field of IT, healthcare and education.



dental consultation



*online broadcast of
ophthalmic surgery*



*Prof. Valery Stolyar, Head of Department,
Medical Informatics and Telemedicine, and
his students*

The main Russian TV channel recently featured a reportage about the experience in Russian Telemedicine and the education process of foreign students: www.1tv.ru/shows/dobroe-utro/pro-zdorove/telemedicina-kak-eto-rabotaet-dobroe-utro-fragment-vypuska-ot-29-03-2017 (in Russian).

Corporate Member Spotlight - Medical Insights



Medical Insights (Switzerland) fosters knowledge access and exchange between medical practitioners at a global level. INSIGHTS' free Smart Companion apps and web platform enables health care professionals to focus and keep up with medical advances that really matter. Currently covering Orthopedics, Cranio-Maxillofacial, and Veterinary; medical specialties receive a dedicated environment where medical professionals directly access, share and interact with world's leading medical knowledge.

Spanning a global community, INSIGHTS allows surgeons to follow key opinion leaders and receive hand picked collections of recommended articles, videos and surgical guidelines. Ensuring that all medical professionals and surgeons have access to the latest knowledge needed for better patient care.

By joining the ISfTeH, **Medical Insights** intends to broaden this model across more medical specialties, and launch INSIGHTS Exchange, a platform dedicated to fostering medical knowledge exchange within Low and Middle-Income Countries.

Watch a **video** introducing the new INSIGHTS Orthopedics and how it works.

Board Member Spotlight - Dr. Mauro Feola

Dr. Mauro Feola was born in Turin, Italy on November 9, 1963. He graduated in Medicine at the University of Turin in November 1988 and became a cardiologist after a post-graduate course, also at the University of Turin. He is a cardiologist strictly involved in Heart Failure, showing a great interest for cardiovascular imaging (myocardial scintigraphy, cardiac MRI and cardiac PET). He currently is the Director of the Division of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Heart Failure Unit at the Hospital SS Trinita' in Fossano, in the North-West of Italy, and is promoter of the project of *Telemedicine in Advanced Heart Failure Patients*, which was initiated in 2014.



A more detailed profile of Dr. Feola is available [here](#).

National Member Spotlight - Ukrainian Association for the Development of Information Technologies in Medicine (UADITM)



The **Ukrainian Association for the Development of Information Technologies in Medicine (UADITM)** is a national member in the ISfTeH, representing Ukraine since 2013. The national health care system of Ukraine originates in the first half of the last century and since that time it has been completely provided by the state. Since the first years of independence (1991), health care in Ukraine is gradually changing towards increasing the patient's responsibility for his health and reducing the state's share in financing. This process is accompanied by an active introduction of innovations, including information technologies.

Today in Ukraine there are more than 1500 hospitals, clinics and other medical institutions employing more than 160,000 doctors. At the same time, the number of doctors involved in the private sector is growing (30,000). Unfortunately, electronic health systems in health care are not actively used yet. The UADITM actively promotes advantages of electronic medicine and its implementation in the activities of medical institutions in many regions of the country.

The UADITM together with leading telecom operators and the largest energy companies of Ukraine implemented a number of large-scale projects which resulted in uniting more than 42 leading clinics and medical institutions in 9 regions of the country into a single medical network. This made it possible to provide access to experts and consultants from leading clinics. On the other hand, staff members of these medical institutions were able to remotely access best practicing doctors and experience in diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

Partners of the UADITM are leading software producers in the country. Ukraine has more than 65,000 programmers, many of whom cooperate with the Association as independent contractors, and as employees of leading Ukrainian software companies.

At regulatory level, members of the UADITM in 2016 presented their vision for the development of electronic medicine at the Parliamentary hearings and in the Health Committee of the Parliament of Ukraine. As a result, parliamentary recommendations were prepared for central executive authorities regarding the development of eHealth. UADITM took part in the preparation of the Ministry of Health decrees and government resolutions regarding the introduction of telemedicine in Ukraine. Thanks to the activity of the Association members, telemedicine became an integral part of the healthcare system in Ukraine since 2015. In 2016, telemedicine received a new impetus after adoption of the Government Decree regarding usage of paid medical services with the help of telemedicine. The Association together with the State Telemedicine Center is implementing this direction in all regions of Ukraine.

With direct participation of the UADITM, the National Telemedicine Network was established, which includes more than 500 medical institutions and more than 2500 doctors from all regions of the country. In 2014-2016 a large-scale project was implemented in one of the largest industrial regions of Ukraine (www.esemi.org). Almost all medical institutions in the region and regional centers were integrated into a single telemedicine network. Thanks to telemedicine consultations in this Network, residents of the region have access to specialists from leading clinics of the regional center and other regions of the country.

In 2015-2016, a pilot project for introducing telemedicine technologies in military hospitals located in remote regions of Ukraine was successfully implemented. In 2017, the Association, together with the Ministry of Defense and the Tallinn Technical University, is launching the first stage of a large-scale project aimed at the creation of a telemedicine network for the healthcare system of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. The project will be implemented in cooperation with partners from NATO countries and is designed for three years.

Also since this year, work has begun on the introduction of electronic health at the primary level of medical care - family medicine. Particularly relevant is the use of information technology to organize medical surveillance for chronic patients and patients undergoing rehabilitation (stroke, inflammation, injuries, etc.). The UADITM implements remote medical care and telemedicine for such patients.

The Association sees broad prospects for international cooperation and attraction of the best foreign experience for the needs of Ukraine. UADITM recognizes that its membership in the ISfTeH provides opportunities for more active dialogue with colleagues from different countries. UADITM is also available to share its experience in creating telemedicine networks to provide remote medical services (access to consultants, experts, second opinion and other inter-hospital communications) and for cooperation in the field of eHealth and telemedicine. For more information and to assess collaboration opportunities, contact uaritm@gmail.com.

New issue published of the Russian Journal of Telemedicine and eHealth



The new issue of the Russian **Journal of Telemedicine and eHealth** has been published and includes translated papers kindly presented by the ISfTeH, and also a number of original articles:

Experience with WhatsApp and Viber in Daily Clinical Routine is summarized in a systematic review (A.V. Vladzmyrskyy). These internet messengers are a reliable tool for health care teams' efficiency improvement. They allow to optimize collaboration between primary and tertiary levels of a health care system. The evidence base is still weak, nevertheless there is a tendency for development of a unique methodology of telemedicine based on messengers: rules for medical data preparation are unified, safety measures are accurately formulated, clinical efficiency (cardiology, orthopedics, neurosurgery, dentistry) are proven.

A paper on ***The Informed Consent as a Key Part of Telemedicine Consultation Legislation*** (V.M. Levanov) describes practical issues and key points of telemedicine safety. As signed informed consent form is considered as a key document which allows to make telemedicine consultation safe and assures basic patient rights (choice of doctor and medical organization, refusal of medical intervention, etc.).

Original ways for evaluation of a patient's diet and approaches for correction of metabolic lithogenic disorders are described in the paper ***Online Assessment of a Nutrition Stereotype at Urolithiasis*** (M.Y. Prosyannikov et al.). A special questionnaire allows to find relationships between dietary stereotype and kidney stone disease (urolithiasis). The questionnaire is presented in the form of web application.

The paper ***Introduction of Distance Learning in a Medical University during Wartime*** (A.A. Muzytchina et al.) describes an experience with distance learning in a medical higher education institute in the period of a humanitarian disaster. Interactive cooperation of students and teachers took place in a learning environment created in Moodle. This technology can be used as an additional tool for improvement of a classical methodology of learning, and as an alternative solution in case of a humanitarian disaster.

And finally, a review paper (A.I. Andreev) analyzes and summarizes the ***experience of applying telemedicine technologies in medical support of armed forces*** and reviews current trends in the use of military telemedicine services in collaboration with civil health authorities.

More information and papers (in Russian) at www.jtelemed.ru or contact the editor at editor@jtelemed.ru.

EHMA, the European Health Management Association, invites you to participate in their upcoming annual conference. Hosted by Bocconi University (Milan, Italy), this year's event will revolve around the topic of "Health Futures". Two perspectives will be considered. On the one hand, delegates will try to identify external trends in demography, technology, economy and culture and discuss what those trends mean for the demands on and organisation of our Healthcare systems in the (near) future. On the other hand, they will attempt to assess how such changes are impacting the current reform agenda and whether they are making service improvement challenging to achieve.



For more information and registration, [click here](#).

EHMA 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Health Futures

13-15 June - Milan, Italy

→ KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Josep Figueras
European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Nationalism, insularity and the case for international health system collaboration



Dr. Jan Kimpen
Royal Philips

How technology companies are responding to future health needs



Sir David Sloman
Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

New insight into a groundbreaking hospital partnership between the NHS and Google

→ THE THEMES

Health Workforce Primary Care
Rural Health Integrated Care
Best Practice in Management
Health Governance & Regionalism

→ SPECIAL SESSIONS

Health Management Masterclasses
Specifically designed by Bocconi University for healthcare managers.

Young EHMA
Young healthcare professionals networking forum.

Organised by European Health Management Association

Hosted by **Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi**
CERGAS
Centre for Research on Health and Social Care Management

Upcoming ISfTeH meetings and conferences

22nd ISfTeH International Conference

6-8 December 2017

Casablanca, Morocco

www.msftch.org/mehealth2017



Other ISfTeH supported events:

ICT4AWE 2017 - 3rd International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies for Ageing Well and e-Health

28-29 April 2017

Porto, Portugal

www.ict4ageingwell.org

1st World Tinnitus Congress

22-24 May 2017

Warsaw, Poland

www.its2017.com

7th International Conference on Digital Health

2-5 July 2017

London, UK

www.acm-digitalhealth.org

Successes and Failures in Telehealth (SFT-17) & 8th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Telehealth Society

30-31 October 2017

Brisbane, Australia

www.sftconference.com

4th European Congress on eCardiology & eHealth

8-10 November 2017

Berlin, Germany

www.e-cardiohealth.com

TELEMEDICON-2017 - 13th International Conference of the Telemedicine Society of India

9-11 November 2017

Pune, India

www.telemedicon2017.com

8th Brazilian Congress on Telemedicine and eHealth "Telehealth: Trends and Impacts on Health"

14-17 November 2017

Gramado, Brazil

www.abtms.org.br

8th International Conference on Revolutionizing Healthcare with IT

1-2 December 2017

Mumbai, India

www.transformhealth-it.org

ISfTeH Supported Events Calendar and Other Telemedicine/eHealth Events

New ISfTeH members

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



National Members:



SITT, Spain/Portugal

Institutional Members:



Stavanger University Hospital - RAKOS, Norway

Corporate Members:



Indian Health Organisation, India



Medical Insights, Switzerland



Telstra ReadyCare, Australia

Individual Members:

*Angelica Silva, Brazil
Waddaa Redha, United States*

*Leocadia Conlon, United States
Morgan Nowak, United States*

*Luis Fernando Cifuentes,
Colombia*

Christoph Dockweiler, Germany
Edward De La Loza, United States
Maciej Ludwikowski, Poland
K. Todd Houston, United States

Yasir Elsanousi, Sudan
Mauricio Machado da Rosa, Brazil
Michele dos Santos Gomes da Rosa,
Brazil

Nurse Members:

Bunila John Newmann Nsokika,
Cameroon
Toni Horsley, Australia

Lisa Olson-Gugerty, United States
Ada Murrugarra, Peru
Maria Miala, Belgium

Abhishek Jadaun, India

Student Members:

Joel Onwuemene, Germany
Chaman Afroz Chowdhury,
Bangladesh
Kefeh Collins Yunyuy, Cameroon
Muhammad Salman Mushtaq,
Germany
Irfat Naz, Germany
Helana Lutfi, Germany
Jonathan Okereke, Germany
Hiwot Tibebe, Germany
Arunakiry Natarajan, Germany
Moustafa Ali, Egypt
Aishah Opawoye, United States
Amanda Opawoye, United States

Benjamin Walker, United States
Sharrin Jahan, United States
Rebekah Zets, United States
Nehad Mikhael, United States
Christina Wojnarwsky, United States
Cody Bottenfield, United States
Lukman Bello, Nigeria
Solita Parker, United States
Jennifer To, United States
Abel Mestie, Ethiopia
Mohamad Aljaseem, Syria
Charles Umeh, Nigeria
Rilinda Canka, Belgium
Lucy Meyer, Germany

Ammar Saifuddin, Germany
Mustaf Mohamed Hassan,
Somalia
Driane Krasniqi, Kosovo
Faizan Akram, Pakistan
Sulabh Shrestha, Nepal
Julien Labarrere, Brazil
Qendresa Makolli, Kosovo

[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:





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



Mauro Feola



Hassan Ghazal



Markus Lindlar



Piotr Skarzynski



Adolfo Sparenberg



Regina Ungerer



Rajendra
Pratap Gupta



Mina Abdulla
Hamoodi

Management Board



Yunkap Kwankam



Frederic Lievens



Frank Lievens



Maurice Mars

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

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 four Lifetime Achievement Award laureates so far are:



Louis Lareng



Ron Merrell



Gyorgy Miklos Bohm



Prathap C. Reddy

Watch this space for future ISfTeH Lifetime Achievement Awards!

STAY CONNECTED:



Join the ISfTeH Global Network
Click here for membership application

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