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 (January 2019)

Read in this issue about guidance for teleconsultation services, new ISfTeH members, partnership in Germany for new telemedicine service provider, innovation in women's health, the year 2018 in telecardiology, ISfTeH webinar reports, international PhD course, and much more. A lot of information to digest, but worth your while to update yourself on some of what is happening in the ISfTeH global network and beyond, and to find out about new partnership opportunities, events to attend, new publications and publication opportunities, and more.

STAY CONNECTED:

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Reader,

In preparing this message, I read through last year's January letter from the Executive Director, and was sorely tempted to simply make appropriate changes to that letter to cover key events that occurred within the Society in 2018. After all, the main themes remain the same - we say good bye to departing Board members, and welcome then new; we express our gratitude to others who are continuing their terms on the Board, as well as to the chairs of various Working Groups and event committees; we look forward to major events planned for the year; and finally, we renew our determination to make the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth the jewel of digital health associations and institutions in the world. So, what's wrong with doing a cut and paste?

Well, for one thing, 2018 marked the first time in fifteen years when our signature event, Med-e-Tel, did not take place. So, last year was the end of an era - the Med-e-Tel era. This end was mourned by many, but also seen by many others for what it was - the heralding of a new era in the life of the ISfTeH. An era in which the Society adapts, with sufficient agility, to the rapid changes in our increasingly digital health world, while holding on to our core values of knowledge dissemination and service for the health and wellbeing of people. A time when we look beyond the individuals who constitute the various categories of our membership, to the constituent groups that they thus create. An era in which we ponder how to better harness the power of the collectives that these individuals coalesce, in various forms, to become - corporations, research organizations, health care provider institutions, and networks of varying stripes. Yes, we are soul-searching. Not about the future of health - that much is clear. It is digital health. But about the best role for our Society in this changing paradigm, one that leverages our strengths and limits our exposure to the uncertainties that characterize the digital world. The Board workshop to be held in February 2019 in Warsaw, Poland should lead to a clear sense of direction about this.
We have been inspired by global policy statements, such as the passage by the 71st session of the World Health Assembly, of the resolution on digital health in May 2018. But we shudder, each time we read about major data breaches by hackers, involving the compromise of enormous quantities of data records. When we read about giant corporations (tech and non tech) venturing into health care, alone or in collaboration with more traditional health care providers, to leverage new business opportunities in the health sector offered by the reach of information and communication technology, we are inclined to nod in recognition that these ventures are proof that the world is going digital and health is no exception - the future of health is, indeed, digital health. Yet, when engaging in online services, if we have to dialog with Interactive Voice Response (IVR) systems and then hold on the phone for customer support for minutes on end, sometimes even longer, (and this after trying to navigate a corporate website and associated menus), we wonder about important health services depending on the reliability and user-friendliness of online platforms that are used in the consumer retail business.

This is not meant to cast doubts about the direction in which health care is going, or to discourage the push into the health market of major corporations from the world of consumer retail, where just about everything can now be purchased online. Rather, it is to sound a note of caution about the fundamental differences between health care and other sectors of the economy. In retailing health services, from insurance coverage to preventive services, ambulatory care and other forms of patient care, we cannot simply substitute health into the same models that have worked successfully in creating the greatest online markets in the Internet age. We cannot simply transfer the consumer retail paradigm into the health care market. And major data breaches by hackers, alluded to above, sometimes involving the compromise of tens or hundreds of millions of data records, are only one aspect that adds fuel to these concerns.

That is why it is important to alert industry players, governments and consumers alike, that much remains to be done in terms of the regulatory environment within which digital health takes place - an environment which has not kept pace with the changes and spread of information technology. Position papers, such as the Teleconsultation White Paper published this month by the International SOS Foundation, in collaboration with the ISfTeH, are important tools in sounding this alert.

Another key milestone for digital health in 2018 was the publication of WHO Guidelines on digital health. Digital health thus officially joins the arsenal of tools in the fight to attain universal health coverage (UHC).

After all that heavy material, I will still throw in some of the usual stuff. This year, 2019, is also singular on the ISfTeH Board, in that we only have one departure. We are grateful to Dr. Regina Ungerer (Brazil), who completed her term as representative of Individual Members, for her many contributions to the Society. Her commitment to the work of the ISfTeH long predates her election to the Board in 2015. She served as the WHO liaison officer, in our privileged relationship with WHO, from 2008 until 2015, during which the collaboration with WHO took many giant strides forward.

We congratulate and welcome Dr. Claudia Bartz (USA), as a new coopted Board Member. Nurses and non-nurses alike will know Claudia from her services to the Society. In recognition of these, she received the Presidential Service Award in March 2018. The citation on her certificate captures the essence of her contribution to the Society. "Claudia Bartz, RN, PhD ... who has worked tirelessly as Chair of the Telenursing Working Group and served as liaison with the ICN for the cause of improving modern nursing worldwide, through the use of Telemedicine and eHealth. She has actively shared knowledge and research outcomes related to Telenursing and eHealth."

Congratulations also, to Dr. Andy Fischer (Switzerland) and Prof. Piotr Skarzynski (Poland), who were re-elected to the Board as representatives of National Associations and Institutions, respectively. We thank all returning Board members and the chairs of various Working Groups and Committees.

Finally, let's make 2019 a key milestone in a new era in the life of our Society, one in which we become an even more successful Key Influencer in the transformation of health in the digital age. And let's meet in Lisbon, Portugal next March for our 24th ISfTeH International Conference and discuss this in person!

Sincerely,

Prof. S. Yunkap Kwankam
Executive Director
Join us at the annual meeting of the ISfTeH global network

The 24th ISfTeH International Conference is taking place on March 19-20, 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal, in conjunction with the annual Portugal eHealth Summit (co-organized by ISfTeH institutional member, Centro Nacional TeleSaúde, part of the Shared Services of the Portuguese Ministry of Health - SPMS).

Just some of the topics that will be presented and discussed during the ISfTeH conference:

- Technology to Monitor Vital Signs for People with Long Term Conditions and Health Management of Service Users with Severe Mental Illness Facilitating Integrated Care in a Wider Community
- The State of Global Digital Health by the Global Digital Health Index
- Potential of Telemedicine for Universal Health Coverage in the Portuguese-speaking Countries Context and in the Global Health Landscape
- Injecting the Human Side of Telemedicine and eHealth: Training Your Staff to Have a Bedside Manner When There Isn't a Bed
- New Guideline of Online Clinic in Japan: An Economic Evaluation
- Considerations and Guidelines for Global TeleConsultation Services
- Physicians' Experiences, Attitudes and Challenges in a Pediatric Telemedicine Service
- Predictive Medicine: The Contribution of Algorithms
- AI Solution Supports Health Care Professionals in their Everyday Work
- Big Data and Tele-ECG
- Data Protection in the eHealth Sector - Challenges and Opportunities under GDPR
- Effective Use of Digital Tools in Everyday Practice
- Telehomecare and Telemonitoring: The Portuguese Experience
- Putting IoT to Work for Caregivers
- Is Technology the Solution to Chronic Disease Management?
- Tele-ECG Network in Southern Brazil
- AI and Telemedicine for Diagnostic Support in Cases of Heart Failure
- Practice Guidelines for Primary and Urgent Care
- Can Telemedicine Consultations Reflect Healthcare System Investment Needs?

The Portugal eHealth Summit is the largest eHealth event in Europe, bringing together some 10,000 stakeholders from the Portuguese National Health Service. By adding on our ISfTeH International Conference, we will bring an extra international dimension to this meeting and provide opportunities for telemedicine and telehealth providers, technology developers and policy makers, to bring their own (international) experience and knowledge to the table, as well as to learn from the Portuguese eHealth initiatives.

The full details of the 2019 event will be available soon at www.ehealthsummit.pt.

For more information on attending the conference (free registration) or exhibiting at the Portugal eHealth Summit, contact info@isfteh.org.

International SOS Foundation launches
The International SOS Foundation has launched a new white paper, endorsed by the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth and authored by leading legal authority, Nathaniel Lacktman, Esq. and the International SOS Group Medical Director for Assistance, Dr. Neil Nerwich.

As the global Telemedicine market increases rapidly, the International SOS Foundation has produced a guidance paper "Teleconsultation Services for the Mobile Workforce; Considerations & Guidelines for the Provision of Global Services in Compliance with Regulations & Best Practice Clinical Standards of Care". The paper provides multi-national organisations with insight into essential considerations when assessing a teleconsultation service.

The 'Teleconsultation Services for the Mobile Workforce' paper includes:

- Country level review of legal requirements for the provision of teleconsultation and subsequent recommendations and treatment
- Guidelines on clinical best practices, taking into account details such as the understanding of a local healthcare environment, clinical expertise of current disease threats at the patients location and the integration into the local healthcare system when required
- Case studies demonstrating usage in both a corporate and educational sector scenarios
- List of global best practices to help guide multi-national organisations in assessing a teleconsultation service.

Read the full press release here, featuring additional comments from the authors and ISfTeH Executive Director. To read the white paper, click here.

Trauma is an epidemic: save lives by nominating leading surgeons to provide access to critical information

Today, more than 5 million people die from traumatic injury every year. It is a silent epidemic in low- and middle-income countries, amounting to 32% more deaths worldwide than Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS combined. This can be reduced by granting access to relevant medical information.

You can help fight the suffering by connecting local trauma-care Opinion Leaders to the digital orthopedics platform from Medical INSIGHTS (ISfTeH corporate member). Doctors in need of specific information can follow their peers’ insights and put into practice procedures that best fit their local environment.

Medical INSIGHTS’ free apps and web platform have more than 152'000 registered healthcare professionals from all orthopedic disciplines. They provide surgeons a dedicated environment to directly access and share medical research and multimedia content. To see the solution in action, check out the AO Alliance supported collection of Prof. Dr. Singh here.
Help doctors around the world fight the trauma epidemic now and get in touch to promote leading surgeons. Contact info@insights.md.

EuroTelemedicine: medical services online going live across Europe

Dr. Carlos Camargo, founder of Brasil Telemedicina, ISfTeH corporate member, currently serves more than 60,000 patients a month on medical services in 640 Brazilian cities ranging from medical reports to psychology and health monitoring.

In his latest venture, Dr. Camargo joins forces with Maximilian Fahr, a Franco-German entrepreneur, to bring Brasil Telemedicina's most innovative products and services to Europe. The operations of EuroTelemedicine are structured in expandable modules with the first one focusing on veterinary medicine. Human healthcare will follow in early 2019.

MyVet24.eu is accessible through a multi-lingual App and offers orientation to pet owners seeking help and advice, wherever they are and whenever. "Our priority is the categorization of the medical incident: is vital response required, is a veterinary involvement sufficient in the following day(s), or is this incident a false alarm?" says Maximilian Fahr. Technology offers live video contact with the customer 24/7.

Benefits for society include:

- increasing the capacity of veterinary practices by eliminating minor issues and false alarms
- offering immediate advice and help, independent of geography and time
- providing access to an enlarged body of knowledge

For more information or to inquire about cooperation opportunities, contact info@EuroTelemedicine.eu.

* Note: MyVet24.eu is no substitute for veterinary consultation.

Rhoen-Klinikum enters in joint venture with Swiss telemedicine provider Medgate

German hospital operator Rhoen-Klinikum has signed a memorandum of understanding with Swiss telemedicine provider Medgate (ISfTeH corporate member) to establish a new joint company "Medgate Germany". With the agreement, and subject to the consent of the
supervisory board, the company plans to render telemedicine and digital medical services in Germany.

Medgate Germany, powered by Rhoen-Klinikum, shall provide patients with advice and treatment for both urgent and/or general medical questions via telephone, internet or video conference.

Rhoen-Klinikum and Medgate are convinced that the gradual relaxation of the ban on telemedicine will cause the demand for telemedical services to rise significantly in Germany in the years to come. In May 2018 the annual general meeting of the German Medical Association (Deutscher Ärztetag) approved an amendment to the standard professional code of conduct for physicians working in Germany relaxing the hitherto applicable ban on the sole use of telemedicine; many federal states have now already implemented the modification.

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**Telefitting between Africa and Europe: Poland as leader in using telemedicine for treatment of patients with hearing disorders**

Prof. Piotr H. Skarzynski (ISfTeH board member and coordinator of the ISfTeH Teleaudiology Working Group), together with the team from the World Hearing Center and the International Center of Hearing and Speech Medincus (institutional members of the ISfTeH) based in Kajetany, Poland, started up telemedicine activities in Senegal. In August ‘18, a first telefitting session took place in Dakar. It is a unique solution of remote adjustment of cochlear implants, providing more widespread treatment availability for patients with hearing impairments and more effective rehabilitation. The patient taking part in this particular teleconsultation was a 7-year old boy from Senegal with congenital hearing loss who was initially operated in the Clinic in Kajetany.

In the course of this year, a Center of Hearing and Speech will also be opened in Dakar, where diagnostic and rehabilitation services will be offered to patients with hearing problems. This Center will form an integral part of the world's first Teleaudiology Network.

The National Teleaudiology Network that was initially set up in Poland, is now a system covering telerehabilitation, telefitting, tele-education, screening, telediagnostics in Europe, Asia and Africa. It was created in 2009 at the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing, currently it comprises 24 telemedicine stations.

Conducting rehabilitation with the use of the telefitting system is another example of cooperation between Poland and Africa. Specialists from Kajetany have already been using and providing such teleconsultation services in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. In the Asian markets they are observing an increasing demand for tele-ABR (auditory brainstem response). The Center of Hearing and Speech in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan is already providing such services.

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**Nordic national eHealth strategies for nurses**

The ISfTeH TeleNursing Working Group webinar on the topic of "Nordic eHealth National Strategies for Nurses: Content, Vision, Results and International Relevance" can still be viewed here.

The webinar features Pirkko Kouri, Vice-President of the ISfTeH and Principal Lecturer at Savonia University of Applied Sciences in Finland, who presents the Finnish strategy along with their experiences from developing and applying it.

Kathy Molstad, Senior Advisor for the Norwegian Nurses Association, presents the Norwegian experiences and strategy for eHealth and platform for innovation.

Participants to the live webinar were actively involved in the discussion that followed the presentations, which ultimately also included a focus on nursing aspects of Electronic Health Records in Nordic and other countries.

The recorded sessions can be accessed here.

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**Use of telemedicine in oral medicine**
The ISfTeH Teledentistry Working Group recently presented a webinar on the "Use of Telemedicine in Oral Medicine: The Telehealth/RS Experience." The session was coordinated and moderated by Prof. Dr. Caren Serra Bavaresco, Vice-Chair of the Teledentistry Working Group and Professor of the Post-Graduate Program in Dentistry at the Lutheran University in Brazil. And a presentation was provided by Prof. Dr. Vinicius Carrard, Associate Professor Oral Pathology, School of Dentistry, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul; Oral Medicine Unit, Porto Alegre Clinical Hospital; and Teleconsultant and Professor in Oral Medicine for the Telessaúde RS-UFRGS Project.

Prof. Vinicius presented the work developed in the context of oral medicine, addressing the advances achieved over nine years of tele-education, teleconsultation and telediagnostic activities, as well as challenges for the future. In Brazil, a country with continental dimensions and high prevalence of oral cancer, actions that allow early diagnosis are of fundamental importance, as well as the timely treatment, avoiding suffering, sequelae or death.

"EstomatoNet" is a telediagnosis service for diseases that present as lesions in the mouth, and has the objective of:

- supporting health professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of oral lesions
- avoiding unnecessary referrals to specialists
- reducing waiting time in the referral queue to specialized services

Prof. Vinicius also presented the distance courses, with pre- and post-test evaluations, as well as the virtual training system for the diagnosis of white lesions, training students and professionals in early diagnosis.

The webinar showed experiences that can be replicated in other regions and countries, bringing contributions to the more widespread implementation and use of Teledentistry. A recording of the webinar can still be viewed here.

What has happened in 2018 in innovation for women's health?

Read the 16 news items published in the WeObservatory Blog (Women Observatory for eHealth) in 2018 that describe the various activities with partners throughout the past year in Mongolia, Monaco, Nepal and Brazil.

They were presented at the 23rd ISfTeH International Conference, Healthio Barcelona, eHealthWorld Monaco and eHealth University Castres.

The mobile maternal health app, Zero Mothers Die, was highlighted in a recent publication of the Medical Futurist Newsletter.

Stay tuned for more news in 2019! Or contact the WoW for partnering opportunities.

Check out the call for articles for the special theme issue 2019 of the JISfTeH on Women in eHealth. Read previous JISfTeH special issues on Women in eHealth here.

Institutional member spotlight: Millennia2025 Women & Innovation Foundation

The Millennia2025 Women & Innovation Foundation is an institutional member of the ISfTeH since the creation and official launch of the Women Observatory for eHealth (WeObservatory) at ISfTeH’s Med-e-Tel conference in Luxembourg in April 2013. As co-founder of the ISfTeH Working Group on Women (WoW), the WeObservatory has organized five special sessions on Women and eHealth at Med-e-Tel in Luxembourg from 2013 to 2017.

The access and use of eHealth and Telemedicine for women’s health were studied with 800 members in 28 countries and Union University (USA) from 2010 to 2012. The results of the study
27 innovative projects conducted by nurses, midwives and health professionals receive financial and technical support and international recognition, such as mobile apps for maternal health, virtual nursing for women living with HIV, eLearning on ICTs for midwifery, ePrevencion for HIV.

As Education is one of the main issues mentioned in the study, the WeAcademy provides eLearning courses and an annual selection of the MOOCs on women's health and technologies accessible for free in English, French and Spanish.

The JISfTeH with the WoW and the WeObservatory have published two special Issues on Women in eHealth, with a woman as first author, in 2015 and 2017. The next issue is planned in 2019.

In 2018, the first list of Women Influencers in eHealth was published from a selection of remarkable women speakers at Med-e-Tel, leaders of innovative projects, educators and researchers.

Together, the Foundation and ISfTeH have gone quite a long way in the promotion of ICTs for Women's Health and look to pursue the effort in the coming years with more partners.

Follow the Foundation's news via the blog:
weobservatory.com,
weobservatory.com/tag/2018
weobservatory.com/tag/medetel
weobservatory.com/tag/abstracts

For more information, contact www.m2025-weobservatory.org/contact.html.

* The Foundation activates the action plans issued from the foresight research Millennia2015, conducted at the European Destree Institute in Namur, Belgium, under the auspices of the UNESCO. The results of the research were presented at the UNESCO in Paris in 2012 and published in 2016 prefaced by Dr. Irina Bokova.

Romanian University Military Hospital appointed to implement national defense telemedicine system

The Central University Emergency Military Hospital "Dr. Carol Davila" is a new institutional member in the global ISfTeH network. This 1300 bed regional hospital offers all medical specializations (except for obstetrics and neonatology) and has just been appointed by the Romanian Ministry of Defense to implement the Defense Telemedicine Information System for its military medical network, but also in order to interconnect with civilian telemedicine systems.

The hospital is interested to hear from ISfTeH members and others about experiences and technical solutions. For more information, contact Dragos Giavan, Head of Telemedicine, or plan to meet with them at the upcoming ISfTeH International Conference in Lisbon, Portugal next March.

Innovation processes for digital health

The Transatlantic Telehealth Research Network - TTRN (institutional member in the ISfTeH) are arranging the third PhD course at the Center for Innovative Medical Technologies (CIMT), Odense University Hospital (OUH) and University of Southern Denmark on August 12-16, 2019.

The aim of the course is to give a comprehensive introduction to research methods used in the different phases of the innovation process for digital health technologies such as telehealth, home monitoring, mHealth, video consultation, robot surgery, artificial intelligence, electronic health record systems, POCT (Point of Care Testing) devices etc.

The 2019 course will have special focus on research methods used in assessment of the outcomes and value of digital health technologies and on the implementation of these technologies in healthcare organizations.
OUH is a leading European university hospital with regards to telehealth and digital health research and practical implementation. Course participants will meet with researchers, doctors and nurses involved in telehealth programs at the hospital (incl. home monitoring of COPD patients, telemedicine for patients with diabetic foot ulcers, mHealth app for patients, video as alternative for outpatient treatment, Hospital at Home for premature infants).

For more information on the PhD course and registration, click here.

The TTRN are also organizing the "New Horizons for Connecting Health - Artificial Intelligence and Entrepreneurship" conference on 25-26 April 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Indian startup Evitalz joins the ISfTeH global network

Evitalz Information Management, a start-up company based in Chennai, India, has just joined the ISfTeH global network. Founder and CEO, Mr. Nandakumar, has over 30 years of maritime domain expertise working for both the Oil & Gas as well as the Shipping industry around the world. Evitalz' parent company, Elektronik Lab India, is providing satellite communication technologies and tracking solutions for more than 16 years to Indian Government Defence Dept., Marine and Air Force. The company also has an office in Turkey and services the aircraft of the Turkish President.

Evitalz' flagship product is the "Evitalz Kit" which offers a combination of medical diagnostic wireless devices to measure vital signs in real-time. Additional features include "1 on 1" video or secure chat with a designated doctor for expert advice and online access to patient records. Apart from being an EMR (electronic medical record), the Evitalz Kit comes with rapid tests for Troponin-I, Troponin-T, Dengue & Malaria. Evitalz will also be starting up telemedicine services with doctor consultation 24/7 worldwide for the marine industry.

More information is available at evitalz.com.

Dr.HereOnline partners with MeiYu United Clinic to promote 'Smart Clinic' services

Lush Era Limited (provider of the Dr.HereOnline Services Platform and an ISfTeH corporate member), with offices in Taipei (Taiwan), Tokyo (Japan), Los Angeles (USA) and Hanoi (Vietnam), has signed a partnership agreement with MeiYu United Clinic (Taiwan) to provide "Smart Clinic" solutions to the MeiYu United Clinic and Health Management Center.

Smart Clinic is a set of application services based on the Dr.HereOnline service platform to provide services in terms of clinical digitalization, member's caring, and health management services to members/patients. These services will help MeiYu United Clinic to increase patient retention as well as patient satisfaction, and to boost MeiYu Clinic to transform into a role of primary healthcare clinic in delivering convenient, patient/customer oriented, and cost-effective healthcare.

Dr.HereOnline is a mobile platform that creates a healthcare-concerned society for health experts and members and enables the delivery of healthcare services regardless of the geographic location and time. For more information on Smart Clinic: www.dochereonline.com.

MeiYu United Clinic was founded by Dr. Clarence Liao with the purpose of making the patient's needs a top priority, caring for the patient's physical and mental health, relieving uncomfortability from the outpatient clinic, taking preventive measures with regular health checks, and using biochemical health care for anti-aging.

French telemedicine pioneer joins ISfTeH

H4D, new member in the ISfTeH global network, is a French company
After 12 years of medical and technology development, Dr. Baudino’s dream of creating a solution to overcome geographic and social barriers to improve access to health care became a reality. Today, H4D provides easy and convenient access to practitioners through a fully connected and interactive medical kiosk: the Consult Station. A patented and certified Class Ila Medical Device (FDA and CE certified), the Consult Station is powered by unique proprietary technology that allows for comprehensive care. This fully equipped digital medical office, combined with the live dialogue that takes place via video conference between the practitioner and patient, allows the practitioner to make reliable and secure diagnoses and write accurate prescriptions by delivering care comparable to an in-person office visit. Studies have shown it replicates 95% of the components of an in-person doctor’s visit; by contrast, a simple video consultation is only able to appropriately handle and diagnose 5% of potential issues. Patients surveyed showed an overall satisfaction rate of 99%. Interestingly, the surveys also show that 54% of patients who used the Consult Station would have otherwise not taken the time to see a health care practitioner in person.

H4D offers more than just a kiosk and a technology solution to address primary care; it is, in fact, a completely integrated medical service. Think of it as a full medical hub, addressing the full continuum of care. H4D connects trained practitioners and specialists (the coordination and management of the practitioners’ network is also part of the service), prioritizing screening, prevention, care, and follow-up. The solution can operate in two modes: a teleconsultation with a practitioner or medical specialist, or in self-checkup mode.

Today H4D operates in seven countries, and the company aims to continue developing internationally to implement its high standards of ethical and professional medical practice supported by technology. For more information and partnership opportunities: www.h-4-d.com.

Global summit on telemedicine & digital health to be held in Brazil

The Global Summit Telemedicine & Digital Health (April 3-6, 2019), an unprecedented international event in the region, will be held in São Paulo, Brazil to lead participants into the new age of digital health and the future of telemedicine in Brazil and the world.

The event will address relevant and current industry themes, such as telehealth, digital health, wearables, artificial intelligence, internet of medical things, patient experience, mobile health, analytics & big data, internet of me, health promotion and prevention, machine learning. The topics will be presented by national and international speakers who will share their experiences from countries with more mature and developed markets.

Conceived by the Assoçiacão Paulista de Medicina (APM), the Global Summit will have a unique program put together by the Board of Curators, whose leaders include current distinguished segment professionals: Prof. Dr. Jefferson Gomes Fernandes and Dr Antonio Carlos Endrigo.

The event is being held in conjunction with the 9th Congress of the Brazilian Association of Telemedicine and Telehealth (national member in the ISfTeH).


iPath finds new home

The iPath-platform, a web application service originally developed at the University of Basel in Switzerland, is now maintained by the newly established iPath Telemedicine Network out of Aurich, Germany and Basys Data out of Basel, Switzerland. A team of long-standing users and consultants on iPath, started up the iPath Telemedicine Network in order to further support the continuous improvement of the platform. iPath is now maintained by the newly established iPath Telemedicine Network out of Aurich, Germany and Basys Data out of Basel, Switzerland. A team of long-standing users and consultants on iPath, started up the iPath Telemedicine Network in order to further support the continuous improvement of the platform.
Telemedicine Network to ensure the services of iPath in future.

iPath is case-based collaboration platform and medium open for "Consultation", "Teaching" and "Research". Today it is actively used by more than 5500 medical doctors in 35 countries.

The iPath working platform can be found at www.ipath-network.com. Info on the newly established organization who maintains the platform, is available at www.ipathnetwork.org. For more information or to join the platform, contact Monika Hubler.

Global South eHealth Observatory announces 2019 call for project proposals

The Global South eHealth Observatory, platform for eHealth entities in low- and middle-income countries, announces its third call for project proposals to identify and support high-potential initiatives in the Global South.

The call, accepting submissions through 15 February 2019, is open to pilot or operational projects using ICT to improve access to quality healthcare and medicines in the Global South. The projects selected will be listed in the Global South eHealth Observatory at www.odess.io.

Proposals can be submitted here.

JISfTeH publishes new volume

The Journal of the ISfTeH has just published the initial articles of its 7th volume. The Journal continues to grow and mature in format, content, and process. Each paper now has an associated and specific DOI number and authors’ ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) are displayed. References include DOI (digital object identifier) or PMID (PubMed ID) numbers or web links when available and copyright and licensing details are provided within each paper. Efforts towards indexing continue.

Read the editorial "Here We Go Again - 'Digital Health’" and the first three articles:

- Adopting Digital Technology in Midwifery Practice - Experiences and Perspectives From Six Projects in Eight Countries (2014 - 2016)

- Profile and Motivation of Women Enrolled in the Brazilian Telemedicine and Telehealth Postgraduation Distance Education Programme

- The Contribution of Online Social Networks for Drug Abuse Treatment Referral: a Pilot Study
New approach to standards around ICT-based products and services that support active and healthy ageing

On January 31st, 2019, the PROGRESSIVE project will hold its final conference in Brussels, Belgium to debate on how the effective inclusion of older people in standards development processes can be promoted and put into practice in the future, so that standards that underpin ICT-based products and services (incl. telecare and telehealth services and technologies) address the needs and challenges of older people and so that those products and services can better support active and healthy lifestyles.

The focus of the meeting will be primarily on:

- **Age-friendly communities** as enablers of active and healthy ageing, incl. a look at the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities and the PROGRESSIVE Guidelines for Standards around ICT for AHA and Age-friendly Communities.
- **Age-friendly smart homes**, focusing on technology as a tool for independent living, the PROGRESSIVE Guidelines for Standards around ICT for AHA for Smart Homes that are Age-friendly, and a new European certification scheme for ageing-in-place.
- **Inclusiveness** in standardisation, with **accessibility and usability** as a use case, looking at the new European Accessibility Act which is improving the accessibility of products and services in the single market, and an assessment of the "Design for All Protocol" in European standardisation projects.
- Actions to promote **user co-production** in standardisation and presentation of an official **statement and policy guideline for a new approach to standards engaging end users**.

You can find the full agenda of the event [here](#). To register (free of charge) for the event, [click here](#). Or contact info@progressivestandards.org for more information and participation in this final PROGRESSIVE event.

Creating age-friendly communities: housing and technology

With advances in technology, the domain of engineering and design offers a wide range of solutions that support daily function, activities, and participation, facilitates the provision of healthcare, and offers means for leisure to older people. Too often, end-users of architectural and technological solutions are not consulted in the design processes and the implementation of the solutions in practice. Their inclusion in these processes is paramount to the success of the proposed and implemented solutions.

The Healthcare journal will be publishing a special theme issue on "Creating Age-friendly Communities: Housing and Technology". **Paper submission deadline** for this special theme issue is February 28th, 2019.

New ethical challenges of digital technologies, machine learning and artificial intelligence in public health

The Bulletin of the World Health Organization will publish a theme issue on new ethical challenges of digital technologies, machine learning and artificial intelligence in public health. This special issue aims to explore and highlight potential ethical and governance matters that artificial intelligence applications are raising in public health.

Papers are welcome covering good research practices, implementation challenges, key normative questions and analysis of ethical challenges that arise in countries dealing with governance, research and implementation of such digital technologies for health. The **deadline for submission** is 15 May 2019.
Growing importance of technologies in humanitarian cooperation

At the occasion of the annual International Festival of Robotics in Pisa last October, the Fondazione Arpa and the Comunità Sant’Egidio (and its Global Health Telemedicine organization) joined forces to launch an International Call for the Dissemination of Humanitarian Cooperation Actions Knowledge and Progress for All.

In order to protect the health of all, the call urges for efforts at global level to increase the support and development of health systems in the most distressed countries, and for structural changes and new ways of acting, making use of new technologies. New challenges cannot be responded to with old intervention models.

The call specifically asks for:

- Intensification of twinning between universities, training internships, scientific societies
- Agreements with pharmaceutical companies to create new market areas and spread healthcare excellence
- Development of new cross-border telemedicine services and new electromedical devices
- And finally, that the excellence of diagnostics and care would no longer be just the prerogative of a minority of the population

Michelangelo Bartolo (Comunità Sant’Egidio & Global Health Telemedicine) and Franco Mosca (Fondazione Arpa) signing the International Call

The full text of the call is available here. For more information, contact info@ghtelemedicine.org.

A review of 2018 in telecardiology

From new smart stethoscopes to digital health investments and studies looking at the use of new technologies, 2018 was a remarkable year for innovation in telecardiology. The biggest news, however, came from Apple receiving FDA clearance for an algorithm detecting atrial fibrillation and an ECG to be built into its latest Apple Watch series.

The ISfTeH Telecardiology Working Group provides a brief review of some of the highlights, key developments and new technologies in 2018.

ISfTeH at GNU Health Conference

The ISfTeH actively participated in the International Workshop on eHealth in Emerging Economies ‘18 (IWEEE), an annual conference for Free (Freedom) Software in Healthcare and Social Medicine advocates, and held as part of the GNU Health Conference, chaired and organized by Luis Falcon, President of GNU Solidario. The IWEEE workshop promotes Free Software as an effective and ethical solution to provide
ISfTeH was represented by Prof. Hassan Ghazal, ISfTeH Board Member and President of the Moroccan Society for Telemedicine & eHealth, and by Thomas Karopka, co-chair of the ISfTeH 'Open Source' Working Group. Prof. Ghazal gave a presentation about "Challenges in Health Data Management in Low Income Countries", focusing on the reality of many countries in Africa and emphasizing the pertinence of Open Source solutions for health data and health care system management in such contexts.

Thomas Karopka provided a talk on "eHealth for all?", putting the focus on the disparities of health access, the concept of Universal Health Coverage, and the FLOSS healthcare community tackling current challenges.


British Chamber of Commerce in Morocco putting focus on digital health

The British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco (Britcham) organized a "Meet the Experts" session last October focusing on "Digitalisation of health: the technological paradigm". The ISfTeH was again represented by its Board Member Prof. Hassan Ghazal, who was joined by Dr. Abderrahim Derraji, Founder of the websites pharmacies.ma and medicament.ma.

The event made it possible to highlight the contribution of new technologies in the establishment of a path of care ensuring optimal care of the patient. Dr. Derraji highlighted the contribution of these new technologies to the pharmacy office management. Dr. Ghazal, gave an overview of the state of telemedicine in Morocco and described how ICT has come to play an increasingly important role in medicine, to the extent that eHealth has been described as a disruptive innovation or revolution in healthcare. As health systems move toward full digitization, clinicians are slowly getting on board with embracing the ICT while the old business models and methods are tumbling. With the rise of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, robotics, augmented reality, health sensors, etc. the entire structure of healthcare, as well as the roles of patients and doctors, are fundamentally shifting to a new modern medicine and healthcare system.

Since 1923, the event organizer, the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco has been the leading partner for British Business in Morocco - helping members seize business and export opportunities with a one-stop integrated offering matching up UK and Moroccan Companies. The main mission is to deliver information, support and networking services to companies in both UK and Morocco.

ISfTeH at Virtual Physicians Summit

The third annual Virtual Physicians Summit was held in Atlanta, USA on October 6, 2018. The main purpose of the summit was to encourage physicians who seek entrepreneurship to create a niche for themselves in the telemedicine arena. Through telemedicine, physicians can reclaim their practice by offering virtual video visits to their patients.

Key speakers included: Dr. Latisha Rowe, Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of RoweDocs, one of the few women owned telehealth companies in the US; Dr. Sonya M. Sloan, the first African-American female Intern in General Surgery and the first African-American female Orthopedic Surgery resident, and the launcher of the Virtual OrthoDoc telemedicine Rowedocs venture; Dr. Kathleen E. Sharp, a board certified Family Physician with a specialty in Sports Medicine and a health and wellness coach; Dr. Mick Connors, Pediatric Emergency Physician and CEO and Founder of Anytime Pediatrics; Dr. Frank North, Doctor of Pharmacy who serves as Speaker for the Texas Pharmacy Association House of Delegates and National Legislative Chair for the US National Pharmaceutical Association; Dr. Angela Nunnery, Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine and is on faculty at Baylor College of Medicine and clinical faculty at the University of Texas; Mr. Errol Pierre, Vice President and COO of Commercial Business at Empire BlueCross BlueShield, one of the US national major Health Insurance companies; Attorney. Mrs. Tricia (CK) Hoffler, CEO of The CK Hoffler Firm, an Atlanta-based law firm that specializes in representing plaintiffs in trucking accidents and medical malpractice, she
managed several billion-dollar commercial cases; and last but not least, Dr. Hassan Ghazal, Professor at the Moroccan National Center for Scientific and Technological Research and Board member of the ISfTeH, who presented telemedicine challenges in low resource settings and cross-border telemedicine legal issues through the Moroccan experience.

All presenters encouraged physicians to show greater interest in innovation in the medical field that will ultimately assist with offering optimal patient care with the use of digital health. This year's summit also updated physicians about the current status in the practice of telemedicine and how to avoid legal pitfalls, locally and internationally.

The summit was hosted by the Minority Physicians Virtual Society that seeks to engage physicians in the healthcare technology movement to increase ownership and leadership by physicians in the telemedicine industry. Sponsors included the ROWE Network (Reliable Online Wellness Experience), Exact Sciences, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield, Anytime Pediatrics, and Nix Direct Access Pediatrics.


European consumer organisation calls for inclusive solutions in digital health

BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation, has published a paper about digital health in which it identifies principles and recommendations to ensure digital health services are beneficial for European consumers.

Traditional health is becoming digital. Consumers will be profoundly impacted by the ongoing and future developments in healthcare services. On the positive side, digitalisation of health care has a potential to deliver better disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment. However, the benefits of digital health products and services come together with high risks when it comes to consumer privacy, security and safety.

Among other things, BEUC calls for:

- Consumers to have full control over their personal health data
- Digital health products and services to be safe and reliable to use
- Authorities to closely supervise digital health products and services

BEUC also specifically calls for all-inclusive solutions. Consumers have different needs, capacities, values and goals when it comes to use of digital health. BEUC insists that digital health solutions must correspond to the variety of users’ preferences, also respecting a preference not to use a digital health product or service.

To access the BEUC digital health paper and its full list of principles and recommendations, click here.

Upcoming ISfTeH supported meetings and conferences

ISfTeH Events:

24th ISfTeH International Conference
(in conjunction with the Portugal eHealth Summit)
19-20 March 2019
Lisbon, Portugal
www.isfteh.org

25th ISfTeH International Conference
8-10 October 2020
Takasaki, Japan
www.isfteh.org

ISfTeH Supported Events:
BIOSTEC 2019
22-24 February 2019
Prague, Czech Republic
www.biostec.org

Portugal eHealth Summit
19-22 March 2019
Lisbon, Portugal
www.ehealthsummit.pt

eHealth 2019 - 24th Finnish National Conference on
Telemedicine/eHealth - "Data-Driven Health"
2-3 April 2019
Kuopio, Finland
www.telemedicine.fi

Pro Digital Health
4-5 April 2019
Poitiers, France
www.pro-digital-health.com

Global Summit Telemedicine & Digital Health
4-6 April 2019
São Paulo, Brazil
www.telemedicinesummit.com.br

TTRN Conference: New Horizons for Connecting Health -
Artificial Intelligence and Entrepreneurship
25-26 April 2019
Copenhagen, Denmark
www.labwelfaretech.com/ttrn/cph2019

dHealth 2019
28-29 May 2019
Vienna, Austria
www.dhealth.at

Revolutionizing Healthcare with IT
13-14 September 2019
Hyderabad, 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:

Institutional Members:

University Children's Hospital Basel,
Switzerland

Central University Emergency
Military Hospital "Dr. Carol Davila",
Romania

Kread Foundation, India

IMAMED, Romania

Corporate Member:

H4D, France
Corporate Start-Up Member:

Evitalz Information Management, India

Individual Members:
Christina Higa, USA
Deborah Randall JD, USA

Nurse Members:
Panduranga Sankappanavar, India
Heitham Sabri, Australia
Eric Kwabia, Ghana
Ifeoluwani Omokurolue, Nigeria

Student Members:
Nicolas Mora, Chile
Konstantin Volodarsky, Russia
Felix Machleid, Germany
Misa Kim, Germany
Anthony Paulo Sunjaya, Indonesia
Jeremiah Acharibasam, Canada

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

Join the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth and participate in ISfTeH Working Groups

- 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.

As a member, you will also be able to participate in or actively contribute to the ISfTeH Working Groups (WGs), or start up new initiatives. Current WGs include among others Open Source Software, Chronic Disease Management, Social Media, Telenursing, Students, Women and eHealth, Tele-audiology, Telecardiology, Teledentistry, Teledermatology, Tele-urology. Contact info@isfteh.org if you are interested in any of these topics or want to join a Working Group.

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:

Is 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  Neil Nerwich  Eric Bacon  Claudia Bartz

Philippe De Lorme  Hassan Ghazal  Michelle Griffith  Rajendra Pratap Gupta  Saroj Mishra

Piotr Skarzynski  Adolfo Sparenberg

Management Board
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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