

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 (October 2017)

Read in this issue about upcoming ISfTeH international conferences, webinar on 'social media', telementoring program in Kuwait, emergency medicine in Norway, online healthcare in Brazil, Apollo Telehealth providing assistance in Vietnam, ISfTeH members collaborating on educational programs, new publication on Mobile eHealth, new issue of the Russian Journal of Telemedicine and eHealth, new them issue of the JISfTeH, new members and more. Enjoy reading!

STAY CONNECTED:



Letter from the Executive Director: guest editorial by Pirkko Kouri, first female Vice-President of the ISfTeH

Dear Reader,

I just read an article in which dimensions of digital inequality were studied. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are seen as a crucial area for greater equality, social justice and democracy. I found a couple of groups, women and elderly, which should receive more attention in relation to ICTs. ISfTeH's mission is *'to facilitate the international dissemination of knowledge and experience in Telemedicine and eHealth and provide access to recognised experts in the field worldwide.'* Although there is an ongoing, accelerating process related to new technologies (robotics, drones, IoT, etc.), the basis of the ISfTeH mission statement has been relevant over two decades and still is.

Today, ICT is gradually used more among women, but the number of women in the ICT sector is still disproportionately low. Gender inequality in access to, use of, and benefit from ICTs is higher in less resourced countries that also have deeper social divisions based not only on gender discrimination, but also on other variables associated with gender like low income, education and socio-economic status. The more resourced countries are more equal in ICT use among different groups. In the future more children will start programming in kindergarten. In my country, Finland, children age of 4 years to nine years, have a special, playful club activity, 'school for coding'. Both girls and boys attend the same classes.

Furthermore, there are differences in accessing the Internet, but also in the way women and men use it. According to the 'Statistics Finland' bureau, the country has now a growing number of older

people using the Internet, prevalence of Internet usage and certain purposes of use in 2016 was 31% among people aged 75 to 89. The Internet was most often used for everyday matters, information search, communication, and following the media. In the elderly group, 36% of Finnish women and 28% of men had reserved a doctor's appointment online. Simultaneously this means that the 'internet-savvy' people will have a growing need for special training to utilize modern technology in e.g. self-care and home care among older people.

Our Society, the ISfTeH, has one working group called 'WoW' (*Working Group on Women*) which places emphasis on enhancing female gender issues. According to WoW, education for girls and women in IT and engineering is the core element to strengthen better gender balance in the digitalised future. The Working Group motivates organizers of international events in eHealth and Telemedicine, publishers and scientific editors to ensure that women are equally represented.

Another ISfTeH Working Group, on *Telenursing*, has more female nurses than male nurses. Both the vision of this working group: *'nurses extending their reach through technology and improving the quality of healthcare delivery worldwide,'* and the mission: *'provide a forum for exchange of knowledge and experiences of nurses and others who are working with or supporting nurses using eHealth applications'* are expressed 'gender free'. Efforts to promote gender equality in telenursing of all kinds may be widespread, but the number of men in nursing remains stubbornly low. So we have to keep on working and hopefully in the future we have more male nurse members in our Telenursing Working Group.

Finally, my home country, Finland, celebrates 100 years of independence in December 2017. Our country is one of the world's leading countries in fostering gender equality e.g. it was the first country to grant women full political rights. In international comparisons Finnish women have done well, according to the Global Gender Gap (2016) survey, our country is considered as second most gender-equal country in the world, we have the best primary education in the world, it is the second best country in the world to be a girl according to *Save the Children's Girl's Opportunity Index* (2016), and they also rate mother's wellbeing second best in the world. But there still is much that needs to be done in Finland. The percentage of Finnish male nurses is less than ten percent. Care duties are not sufficiently shared among men and women, and equality of pay has not yet been achieved. As far as "ageing" is concerned, there are a lot of efforts, technologies and products in Finland to improve safety and to prevent injuries among older people, especially to prevent home and leisure time injuries. This work needs multidisciplinary collaboration, ICTs, innovations and service design methods.

Let's be part of this development work! I look forward to hearing about what is happening in your country and how we can collaborate within the frame of the ISfTeH global network!

Sincerely,

Pirkko Kouri, PhD, PHN, RN, Principal Lecturer in Healthcare Technology
Vice-President
International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth
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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.

Kuwait's nationwide surgical telementoring program



The Kuwait Ministry of Health (MOH) is on a mission to double its bed capacity by 2020 to cater to the country's growing healthcare needs. One way to achieve this goal is by utilizing surgical telementoring in an effort for physicians and surgeons to learn and adapt to an ever changing array of instruments and techniques that can enable them to better adjust to the surge of patients, while maintaining excellence in clinical outcomes.

Unlike western nations, the key driver for implementing telehealth in Kuwait has never been the geographic distance, but the lack of specialist resources. Telemedicine has been used by the MOH since 2014, enabling the services of key specialist resources across the MOH platform, providing more effective night time and remote coverage. It has also enhanced peer-to-peer education.

"Without any doubt, telemedicine is helping to contain healthcare costs by addressing staffing shortages by providing access and enabling teams of healthcare professionals," said Rania Harara, Sales Consultant at Al-Essa Medical, who provides the telemedicine technology from InTouch Health. "Healthcare expenditure makes up a significant portion of the nation's budget, and telemedicine is one significant avenue to curb these expenses without compromising on the quality of care."

The Kuwait MOH has seen numerous benefits since its telemedicine implementation. The entire surgical community of Kuwait now has access to, and can learn from, any specialized surgeries that are being performed at MOH. This is an upgrade from before telemedicine, where access was restricted to just a couple of surgeons in the operating room for proctoring. Besides the access, the telehealth platform from InTouch Health provides more features, such as a multi-dimensional view of the surgery with views from other peripheral devices specially used in laparoscopic surgeries, which was not possible before. Visiting surgeons can now also remotely mentor these surgeons when they are performing these specialty surgeries by themselves. All of these sessions can be deployed seamlessly and instantly, without the need for days of planning, resource allocation, or IT infrastructure. In fact, a broadcast session can be arranged in under an hour.

"The TeleSurgical program was not intended for improved clinical outcomes initially, but we hope that due to the extensive coverage that surgeons have had for these specialized surgeries, MOH surgeons would be able to develop a whole new skill set to effectively use these techniques and tools in the immediate future," said Harara.

Future plans for Kuwait's telemedicine platform includes expanding the telementoring to post-op evaluations and even home visits. The key objective is to not subject the patient to unnecessary hospital visits post-surgery, and instead use telemedicine when it makes sense to do so.

"Empowering surgeons and clinicians is integral for the next couple of years, and with this telehealth program, the Kuwait MOH is ensuring their clinicians will have all the tools necessary to expand and improve care." said Anil Pinto, General Manager at Al-Essa Medical.

"InTouch Health is honored to work with Al-Essa Medical in developing and implementing this nationwide surgical network for telementoring and teleproctoring," said Eric Hall, Director of International Clinical Services and Operations at InTouch Health. "Leveraging the secure, reliable, and scalable InTouch Telehealth Network and telehealth devices enables access to these specialized procedures where Kuwait surgeons can continue to learn and enhance their skills."

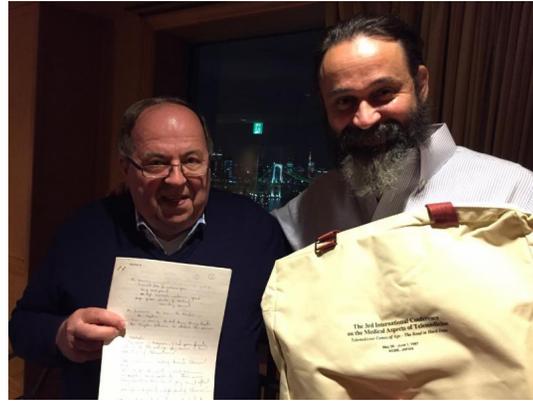
To learn more about the technology used by Kuwait MOH, visit www.intouchhealth.com.
To learn more about Al-Essa Medical, please visit www.alessakuwait.com.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ISfTeH

Twenty years ago, in May 1997, the International Society for Telemedicine (ISfT) was officially founded at the margins of the 3rd International Conference on the Medical Aspects of Telemedicine, held in Kobe, Japan. A detailed history of the founding of the Society is available [here](#).



Recently the historic archives related to the founding negotiations and founding members were traced back and have been handed over by Dr. Guy Harris, Founding Secretary, to the current Executive Secretary, Frank Lievens, when both met on September 29th in Tokyo.



Frank Lievens (left) holds the original minutes recorded at the two meetings at which the Society was founded, on May 30 and 31, 1997, and Dr. Guy Harris holds the conference bag

For the record, back in 2003, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Michael Nerlich (Germany), assisted by Dr. Steinar Pedersen (Norway), Dr. André Petitet (France) and Prof. Robert Rudowski (Poland), the ISfT was reinstated as a federation of national telemedicine associations, with additional associate, institutional, corporate, individual, student and nurse memberships. In 2005, ISfT became ISfTeH (International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth).

Ever since, the ISfTeH has grown to the global telemedicine family of healthcare professionals, IT and communications experts, academics and scientists, managers, and other stakeholders, with members in over 90 countries. Several **Working Groups** have been created, chaired by members of the given specialties.

The Society is also involved in the organization of events around the world, fulfilling its mission of "facilitating the international dissemination of knowledge and experience in telemedicine and eHealth and providing access to recognized experts in the field worldwide."

A sincere thank you to all those who have contributed from the early days till now to what the ISfTeH, an NGO in Official Relations with WHO, has achieved!

If you aren't a member yet, [contact us](#) to find out more about how you can join.

Brasil Telemedicina: providing online health care in Brazil



Brasil Telemedicina is a telemedicine service provider, founded in 2010, in Campinas-São Paulo. The first service launched by the company was Laudo 24hs (medical exam reports). The organization reached more than 500 cities in all states of Brazil, lauding on average sixty thousand exams per month. Currently, there are already more than 4.5 million exams that have been performed. Among the clients are doctors' offices, occupational medicine clinics, psychologists, nutrition specialists, hospital emergency room and prompt care units. In addition to the exam reports, they also started offering medical and psychological assistance at any time, monitoring of patients with chronic diseases and veterinary services (also available as apps for Android and Apple):

Laudo 24hs (24-hour Report): Exam reports when the professional needs them, 24 hours a day. Everything is done in a practical, fast and safe way: the exams are sent via internet to Brazil Telemedicina, where they are analyzed and lauded by specialists.

Médico 24hs (24-hour Doctor): Now, the possibilities of health care are extended throughout Brazil, as this platform provides access to specialists for guidance and monitoring of patients who need follow-up, being a true remote clinic. The clinical staff consists of more than 400 specialists, carefully selected and documented by the CRM - Regional Council of Medicine.

Psicologia 24hs (24-hour Psychology): Psychological counseling cannot always wait. That's

why Brasil Telemedicina brings together technology, convenience and security in an online platform that offers complete reliability with easy access to psychologists. There are more than 200 professionals available on the platform, hired and certified under the laws of the Federal Council of Psychology.

Monitorização 24hs (24-hour Monitoring): A remote monitoring service, part of the 24hr medical platform, with self-actuated or push-button cameras that interact with the patient; sensors linked with the control center of Brasil Telemedicina, allowing to identify abnormalities such as falls, presence of smoke, flood, CO2 levels, etc. Automatic integration with monitoring equipment, such as blood pressure, oximeter, glucometer and ECG in real time, according to the patient's needs, providing daily, weekly or monthly reports.

MédicoVet (Veterinary Service):

This online service brings together a team of highly trained veterinarians, available to millions of people across the country who need medical assistance for their pet.

With technology applied to medicine and psychology, Brasil Telemedicina provides health care in a fast and uncomplicated way, which also guarantees time management, flexibility of schedule, availability of professionals throughout the national territory and, since the service is internet-based, the facility to perform it wherever the patient is. The projects were designed by cardiologist Dr. Carlos Eduardo Cassiani Camargo, who sees a future where most health actions will be in the online environment: "Due to easy access, via a cell phone or computer, people can easily contact a doctor or psychologist."

More information at www.brasiltelemedicina.com.br.

22nd ISfTeH International Conference coming up in Casablanca



The next edition of the annual "ISfTeH International Conference" (MeHealth 2017) will take place on 6-8 December 2017 in Casablanca, Morocco. The event is hosted and organized by our national member for Morocco, the Moroccan Society for Telemedicine & eHealth.

Join the ISfTeH community and other telemedicine/eHealth stakeholders from Morocco and the Afro-Mediterranean region. Conference program details and registration are available [here](#).

If you have any questions about the event, do not hesitate to contact info@isfteh.org.

Finnish Society of Telemedicine & eHealth to host next year's ISfTeH International Conference



In 2018, the ISfTeH International Conference moves from its traditional autumn schedule, to spring, in order to coincide with the annual meeting of the Finnish Society of Telemedicine and eHealth (the national member for Finland in the ISfTeH).

The Finnish Society will indeed host the 23rd ISfTeH International Conference at its "eHealth2018 - Health Communities Facing Cyber Transformation" event, which takes place aboard a Cruise on the Baltic Sea between Helsinki, Finland and Stockholm, Sweden (on March 15-17, 2018).

The so-called ISfTeH International Conferences (a tradition since its inception in the mid-'90s) are always linked with an existing national/regional conference, organized by one of the ISfTeH national or institutional members. The conferences are an opportunity for ISfTeH members to present to or hear from a national/regional audience. In the case of the Finnish conference, that means exposure among a Finnish audience, as well as other Nordic and Baltic countries.

As mentioned above, the 2017 edition (22nd edition) of the ISfTeH International Conference is still to take place this year in Casablanca, Morocco (December 6-8, 2017), hosted by the Moroccan Society for Telemedicine & eHealth. That event will obviously draw more people from (North) Africa

and the Mediterranean region.

A call for abstracts is currently open for the Finnish conference (deadline: December 8th). Go [here](#) for more information about the conference and abstract submission guidelines. Also early-bird registration is available until December 17th at www.tinyurl.com/eHealth2018.

Webinar on "Patients & Social Media: Friends or Foes?" (Monday, October 23rd)



Social Media are increasingly employed in health services by patients, caregivers and health professionals. Despite the exciting possibilities of Social Media, there is much hype and hassle, which make the choice of what is relevant and meaningful even more difficult, while several challenges must still be addressed, such as an overwhelming body of available information, a variable level of health and digital literacy of the population, and concerns on confidentiality and data security. The objective of this webinar is to offer a panorama of the Social Media applications that have been used until now, and explore the perspectives of the health care professionals and the patients.

The ISfTeH Working Groups on Social Media, Telenursing and Students will jointly organize a webinar on the topic of "Patients & Social Media: Friends or Foes?" The webinar will feature the following speakers:

- **Ana Nunes Barata:** Ana is a young Family Doctor in Portugal. She has a MSc in Hospice and Palliative Care, is a student of the Postgraduate degree in Geriatrics and has a diploma in Health Management. She is the Young Doctor representative in the WONCA World executive. Her special interests cover continuous medical education, m-health, social robots and animal-assisted therapy.
- **Raquel Gomez Bravo:** Raquel graduated from the Medical School of Malaga and is a specialist of Family and Community Medicine (Madrid), expert in Mental Health in Primary Care and in Quality Management in Health Care. She was the chief of residents (2009-2010) at the Emergency Department of University Hospital La Paz, Madrid. She is a member of the Executive of the Special Interest Group of Family Violence of WONCA. Currently, she is a PhD student at the University of Luxembourg, where she works on eHealth, family violence and medical education.
- **Harris Lygidakis:** Harris trained as Family Doctor in Bologna (Italy), and has a postgraduate diploma in alcohol-related diseases. He is a PhD student at the University of Luxembourg, and works on the development of an mHealth & primary care research project in Rwanda. He is currently the Honorary Secretary of the European association of the World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA).

To participate in the webinar, please **register in advance** via the following link on the AnyMeeting platform: www.anymeeting.com/PIID=ED52D984864C39. There are only a limited number of 'seats' available!

The webinar is scheduled for **Monday October 23rd**, starting at **19h00 CET** (Brussels/Paris/Berlin time).

If any questions, contact us at info@isfteh.org.

SES and Luxembourg Government extend SATMED eHealth contract



Earlier this year, SES, corporate member in the ISfTeH, and the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs announced that they have extended a contract to maintain and support SATMED, an eHealth satellite platform, until 2020.

Under the new contract, SES will continue to develop the SATMED platform and its medical applications, support the platform's data-hosting facility, and provide full user support with single point of contact. The agreement also includes the extension of the service to support new medical tools, as well as the provision of satellite connectivity over Africa, the Philippines and Bangladesh.

The SATMED solution is designed to connect doctors and nurses based in remote locations to the outside world. Healthcare professionals will use satellite connectivity to access the platform's medical applications such as e-training, accessing patients' e-medical records, virtual

consultation, and video conferencing. SATMED is also aimed at supporting regional development programmes and humanitarian operations in cooperation with both governmental and non-governmental organisations. Connectivity is enabled by the SES satellite fleet, while the SATMED web-applications and the encrypted back-ups are hosted in a secured data hosting facility in Luxembourg. Once deployed, the platform is delivered as a fully-managed service and includes helpdesk, maintenance of terminals and continuous user training.

"Since 2014, we had 10 SATMED deployments across Africa and Asia. The contract extension will help SATMED reinforce its positions as an internationally recognised eHealth platform and, what is paramount for us, continue to bring innovative eHealth solutions to remote communities," said Gerhard Bethscheider, Managing Director of SES Techcom Services. "We are also looking forward to integrating new tools in the platform."

"Extending the contract with SES will enable us to develop healthcare through the SATMED platform on a global scale," said the minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Romain Schneider. "The platform we are providing together with partner NGOs has already helped improve healthcare in countries like Benin, Niger, Philippines and Bangladesh, among others. With the provision of satellite connectivity over other regions, we hope to open the doors to new deployments and further enable accessibility to healthcare for all, in line with SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) no. 3 and leaving no one behind."

More information at www.satmed.com and www.ses.com/what-we-do/government/e-applications.

Coordinating community health, ambulance services and A&E



The main objective of **RAKOS** (Regional Centre of Emergency Medical Research and Development at the Stavanger University Hospital, Norway - institutional member in the ISfTeH) is to facilitate the coordination between the community health system with GP, the ambulance services (ambulance boats/cars and helicopters) and the A&E departments at the hospitals. This includes the planned cooperation with the emergency services of the fire rescue services and police department. Use of modern ICT/telemedicine is a key factor to succeed in these activities. Their current innovation projects include:

Emergency medical dispatch center integrated into a full helicopter flight simulator

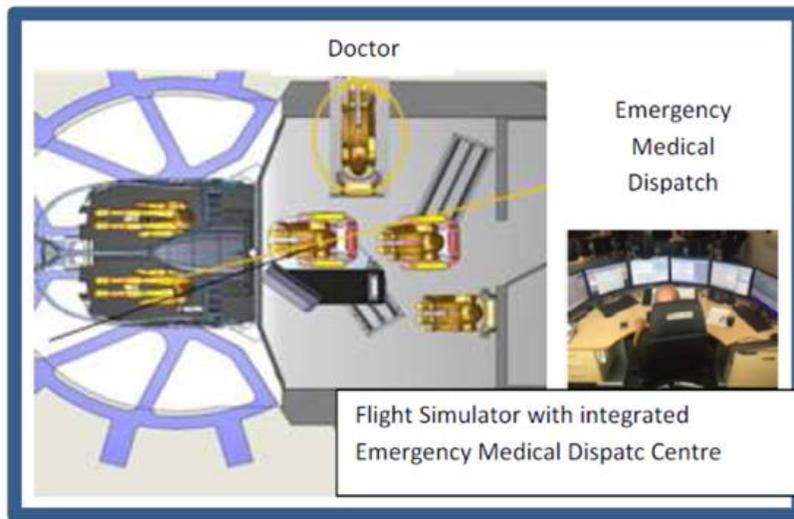
To increase the safety of all operations in the air ambulance service (HEMS operations), RAKOS will integrate a complete medical dispatch center into a new full flight simulator. This will contribute to enhance team performance and managing risk of human errors. The system will improve coordination of the air ambulance service by improving the communication between the medical dispatch center and the helicopter.

The goal is to improve performance and quality, and reduce the cost. Key factors are:

- Individual proficiency training
- Team training
- Integrated mission training
- (High-risk) operational scenario training
- Malfunction training
- Briefing /Debriefing
- Awareness training
- Train to improvise - to handle the unknown
- How to manage calculated risk - point of no return
- Continuous training

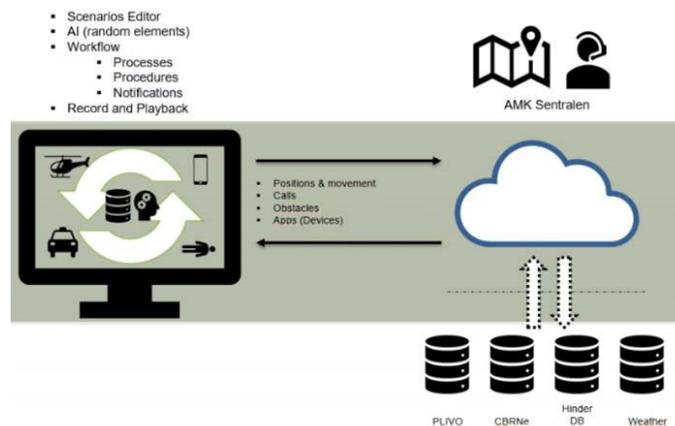
By utilizing modern technology this will enable the necessary realism and flexibility in the simulator. The project will also develop a high detailed Norwegian Visual Flight Database in cooperation with the Norwegian Mapping Authorities:

- Highly detailed Norwegian terrain database
- Highly detailed airports and landing sites with vicinities
- Obstacle Database (automatically updated based on authority provided input)
- Highly detailed Object Database with for instance Ships, Offshore Rigs and Onshore Installations
- Highly detailed scenario database the actual landings sites at the Hospitals



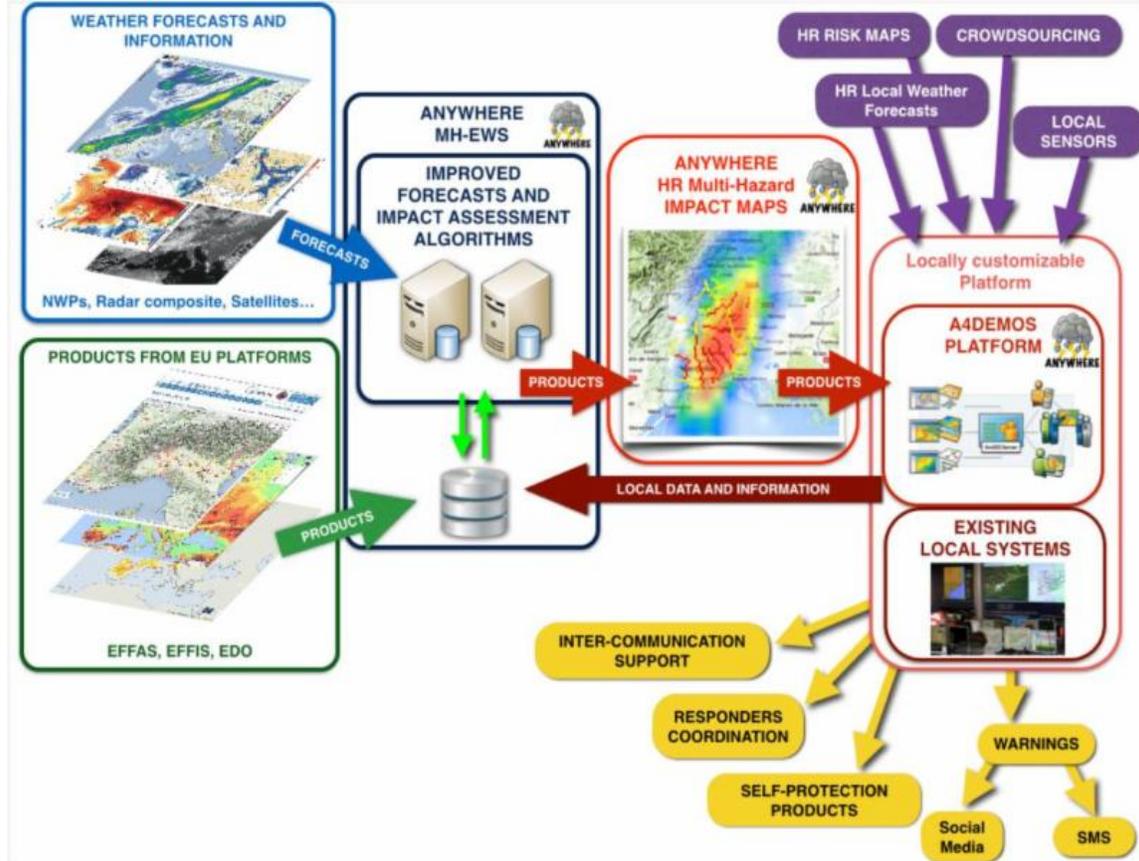
Medical Emergency Dispatch Center Simulator

By using the technology of artificial intelligence, an Emergency Medical Dispatch Simulator will be developed which main purpose is to train the dispatchers in receiving an emergency call, to give the right medical instructions and dispatch the right emergency services.



ICT and extreme weather: EU-project EnhANCing emergency management and response to extreme WeatHER and climate Events ("Anywhere")

RAKOS is one of the two Nordic partners in this EU project, involved in the development and execution of four pilot sites throughout Europe. Municipalities of Stavanger and Sauda in Rogaland, Norway, the Andalusian civil protection in Spain and the Corsican civil protection. The ultimate purpose of the ANYWHERE project is to empower responder institutions and exposed people to enhance their anticipation and pro-active capacity of response to face extreme and high-impact W&C events through the use of cutting-edge innovative technology as the best way to enhance citizen's protection and saving lives. There are already many services in the area of weather prediction and civil defense, but ANYWHERE is aimed on taking advantage of all of these and designing a system that combines the information. The main difference is that ANYWHERE is designed to forecast not only the weather or give civil protection better tools, but to estimate impact of the forecasts as well.



To confront this major gap and to overcome these barriers, ANYWHERE aims to cover the full chain of the technological support to the weather and climate induced emergencies management operation and response, creating a co-ownership framework between developers and responders.

India's Apollo Tele Health Network provides technical assistance to Vietnam



In the context of the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund project An E-learning Approach to Health, an expert team from the Apollo Hospitals Network in India with specialized expertise in the set-up and management of telemedicine programs visited Haiphong University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Vietnam to establish the grounds for collaboration. The team consisted of Prof. K. Ganapathy, President of the Apollo Telemedicine Foundation and S. PremAnand, Vice President of Program Development.

"At the Apollo Network of 65 hospitals and centers of excellence, we have perfected the practice of telemedicine, and enabled its reach to remote areas of India, as well some of our neighboring countries. We have provided provide telehealth services to 400,000 people in India and other countries in South Asia in the last 17 years, and continue to expand our support for partners to run their own tele-health services," said Prof. Ganapathy. "In the spirit of South-South cooperation we look forward to supporting Viet Nam as they explore how best to deploy a tele-health system that improves the coverage and quality of their medical care," added Mr. PremAnand.

"Besides the support we are currently getting from IBSA to develop our e-learning programme so as to reinforce the knowledge and capacities of health professionals in the northern coastal region of Vietnam, we are very interested in acquiring technical expertise on how to design and roll-out telehealth systems, as we believe this is an area with much potential to help us overcome capacity gaps among health care professionals in remote areas of Viet Nam, thereby improving the health of thousands of Vietnamese," commented Professor Nguyen Van Hung, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Haiphong University.

The IBSA project in Viet Nam is implemented in partnership with the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health, which were also key partners supporting this technical exchange with Indian experts.

ISfTeH members collaborate on educational programs

Savonia University of Applied Sciences (Finland) and Deggendorf Institute of Technology - DIT (Germany) have put in place a collaboration since 2016. Both universities offer English speaking courses in health care related areas.

Savonia offers its **Master Digital Health course** as a distance teaching course. Lectures are offered as videos. Savonia systematically promotes self-directed learning which allows students to gain experience during the study course.

In Deggendorf, students have the possibility to choose between a **Bachelor Health Informatics (BHI)** and a **Master Medical Informatics (MMI)**. The courses in Deggendorf are face-to-face courses. In Germany no tuition fees have to be paid which attracts students from all over the world. The cooperation between the two Universities includes the development of eHealth lectures, exchange of knowledge, students and lecturers. The future plan is to do research and development activities to offer distance learning studies for international bachelor and master students.



Pirkko Kouri from Savonia (pictured right) and Anna Schmaus-Klughammer from DIT are long standing members of the ISfTeH. Dr. Kouri is the Vice-President of the ISfTeH and Mrs. Schmaus-Klughammer is founding member of the ISfTeH Working Group on Women WoW.

Appointment of WHO Chief Nurse is good news for health care



The International Council of Nurses (ICN), the global voice of nursing, congratulated Mrs Elizabeth Iro on her appointment as the new Chief Nurse for the World Health Organization (WHO): "ICN congratulates Mrs. Iro on her appointment to this key position. We are delighted that Dr. Tedros (WHO Director General) has been true to his word and reinstated the role of Chief Nurse at WHO," said Annette Kennedy, ICN President. "ICN has met with Dr. Tedros several times in the past few months to lobby for this position. He clearly recognises the value of nurses and has followed through on his promises."



Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Mrs. Elizabeth Iro

"Nurses play a critical role not only in delivering healthcare to millions around the world, but also in transforming health policies, promoting health in communities, and supporting patients and families. Nurses are central to achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. Mrs. Iro will keep that perspective front and centre at WHO," said Dr. Tedros.

ICN welcomes this announcement as good news for patients, populations and improved health care around the world. As the largest group of health professionals in the world, nursing is critical to the achievement of WHO's priorities and overcoming the health challenges the world is facing. The reinstatement of the key role of Chief Nurse is important to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally. It will support ICN's strategic intent to influence health, social, economic and educational policy, as well as to advance the nursing profession and its contribution to people's health.

Accepting the position, Mrs. Iro said, "I am very honoured and humbled with this announcement today...I think this appointment is going to be raising the profile of nursing and midwifery and I anticipate it will be encouraging and enabling for nurse to work to their full potential if countries are to achieve universal health coverage."

ICN will continue to work closely with WHO to ensure that nurses have a chair at the policy making table. ICN looks forward to working closely with the WHO Chief Nurse and Director General to support their work and represent the global nursing voice.

The ISfTeH Telenursing Working Group also applauds this appointment of a Chief Nurse at WHO and looks forward to continue working with closely with ICN and WHO on important nursing issues and the implementation of telenursing and eLearning programs.

Are you active in (tele)audiology? Join your colleagues in the ISfTeH Tele-Audiology Working Group



Are you interested in helping out at Tele-Audiology Working Group? Great! There are many ways in which you can get involved. We are organizing a variety of events and trainings that you can attend, and there are other ways in which you can work with us on activities of telefitting, telerehabilitation, telediagnosics, hearing screening, tele-education and more.

To become a member of the ISfTeH and the **Tele-Audiology Working Group**, contact the Network Chair: Piotr H. Skarzynski, p.skarzynski@inz.waw.pl.

New theme issue on Women in eHealth scheduled for the JISfTeH: Empowering Women in eHealth and Telemedicine



The JISfTeH (Journal of the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth) special issues on Women and eHealth in 2015 and 2017, explored the place, roles and implication of women in the area of eHealth and Telemedicine that remains poorly explored in times of explosion of ICTs, social media and innovative applications. The issues are still available at:

2015: <http://journals.ukzn.ac.za/index.php/JISfTeH/issue/view/10>
(pdf: http://www.m2025-weobservatory.org/uploads/3/9/5/1/39512321/jsfteh_vol3.pdf)

2017: <http://journals.ukzn.ac.za/index.php/JISfTeH>
(pdf: <http://www.m2025-weobservatory.org/uploads/3/9/5/1/39512321/jsfteh2017.pdf>)

Supported by the **Women Observatory for eHealth** of the Foundation Millennium2025 and the **Working Group on Women** of the ISfTeH, the third special issue of the JISfTeH aims at providing updates of the global vision, along the cardinal pillars of women's engagement in Telemedicine and eHealth, the specific factors of influence and sets of patterns in related areas. Articles, abstracts, literature review and reports from the field will cover key issues and innovative trends in the world on the access and use Telemedicine and e/mHealth for Women's health along the UN SDGs.

All articles submitted must be authored by a woman, as principal author. The language will be English.

Submissions follow the JISfTeH guidelines:

<http://journals.ukzn.ac.za/index.php/JISfTeH/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>.

Submissions should be done before 30 August 2018. If you have any questions, contact info@isfteh.org.

Mobile e-Health: a new publication providing an understanding into the current state of the art in technologies, associated to digital health and wellbeing across the lifespan



Mobile e-Health is a multi-disciplinary collection of essays which captures discussion, thinking and research surrounding the recent surge of interest in how technology can help us as we age. A wide range of topics are covered, from investigations in the use of technology to improve health and well-being, to examinations of digital gaming, mobile health apps and the quantified self in relation to an ageing population.

From multi-disciplinary perspectives, this collection highlights the role of a more social approach to technology. As such, a variety of social research methods are used throughout the chapters. The benefits and issues with different approaches are highlighted both in terms of further research, but also so the reader can judge the value of the research for themselves.

This collection brings together the latest thinking and cutting edge contemporary research from leading thinkers and academics in the field of human computer interaction, health and gerontology. In taking a social approach, it highlights how technological practices fit within wider gerontological, political and cultural perspectives. It therefore has potential to influence those working in human computer interaction, digital humanities, sociology, psychology and gerontology. It can help change the practice of people working in the health and social care field, in computer and product design, and in the digital and creative industries.

Editors:

Hannah R. Marston - The Open University, Faculty of WELs, UK

Shannon Freeman - University of Northern British Columbia, Canada

Charles Musselwhite - Swansea University, UK

New issue published of the Russian Journal of Telemedicine and eHealth



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

Patient Initiated Direct-to-Consumer Telemedicine Consultations: First Step For a Methodology Systematization (Anton Vladzimirskyy): Systematization of medical and management issues of patient initiated direct-to-consumer telemedicine consultations has been made. Results have been united in the connected blocks: patients selection, identification, telemedicine evaluation, conclusion and documentation, responsibility, care continuity, quality control, typical errors. Quality criteria for a direct-to-patient telemedical service have been formulated.

Evolution of internet technologies in healthcare (Georgy Lebedev, Igor Shaderkin et al.): Information technologies are applied in all areas of healthcare, including clinical workflows, resources management, professional communications etc. Strategies of health IT development include patients informing, prevention and health promotion, artificial intelligence, telemedicine and telehealth, mHealth, "Internet of Medical Things", support of research activity, eLearning, ePrescription and ePharmacy. A review of health IT state-of-art shows a fast evolution. In several

years these technologies will become key components of the healthcare system architecture.

Awareness of medical community on digital medicine (Yana Kubryk): A survey on digital medicine issues was done. Representatives (n=1125) of the medical community have been interviewed. There were 1024 medical practitioners and 101 health care managers. Managers are more focused on direct-to-consumer telemedicine, meanwhile doctors are more informed about clinical applications of telemedicine. High readiness for use of distant care tools is revealed in both groups. Private hospitals show better introduction of electronic interaction with patients than state medical organizations. The general level of awareness on digital medicine is rather high and shows an annual growth.

Speech technology for telemedicine consultation processes optimization in extreme situations (Oleg Perevedentsev, Vladimir Levanov): This paper describes opportunities for medical data speech input during teleconsultations as an alternative to manual keypad input. Speech technologies allows to reduce duration of input by 4.4 times, and to decrease the percentage of mistakes. These factors are essential for telemedicine consultations in extreme conditions or urgent situations.

Mobile diagnostic complex as a key technology for prevention medicine (Ravil' Bylalov, Aynur Nurytdynov): The system "Mobile diagnostic complex" is intended for a preventive medical examination of adult population. It allows to provide a majority of the medical services ordered by the legislation at the first stage of a preventive action. The systems are most suitable for rural health care, because it decreases the need for personal hospital visits. 80% of adult's preventive examination in the Republic of Tatarstan are now carried out with "Mobile diagnostic complex". Benefits: ensuring equality in preventive medical care for rural population, workload and business process optimization at all levels of healthcare.

The Journal is cited by [ScienceIndex](#).

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

Upcoming ISfTeH meetings and conferences

22nd ISfTeH International Conference

6-8 December 2017
Casablanca, Morocco
www.msfteh.org/mehealth2017



23rd ISfTeH International Conference

15-17 March 2017
Helsinki, Finland
www.telemedicine.fi



Other ISfTeH supported events:

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

II Forum Telesalut@ da SITT

19-20 January 2018

Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

sitt-iberica.org

BIOSTEC 2018 - 11th International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies

19-21 January 2018

Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

www.biostec.org

ICT4AWE 2018. 4th International Conference on ICT for Ageing Well and e-Health

22-23 March 2018

Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

www.ict4ageingwell.org

eHEALTH SUMMIT 2018

12-14 June 2018

Budapest, Hungary

ehealth360.org/2017

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:



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National Research Center for Preventive Medicine, Russia



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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:



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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!

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