

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 (July 2019)

Read in this issue about new teleconsultation initiatives and partnerships, digital solutions in preventive cardiology, telemedicine and digital health in otology, evolving regulatory landscape for telemedicine in France, ISfTeH at the World Health Assembly, upcoming events, and more.

STAY CONNECTED:



Guest Editorial

Dear reader,

International travel is expanding at an unprecedented rate today. The United Nations World Tourism Organization **reported** 1.8bn international traveller arrivals in 2018, an increase of 400m from 2017. In the next 20 years, IATA **expects** global airline passenger levels will double. A driving force in this is growth is business travel, as organizations increasingly deploy their staff to locations around the world.

The profile of business travellers has also shifted substantially over the last 20 years. Most travellers are now online and engaged on a 24/7 basis, wherever they are. Cross-border boundaries for goods and consumer services are diminishing, and historic barriers to knowledge and information have disappeared.

Healthcare has also evolved in today's digital world, and telehealth is now a well-established method of clinical service delivery. In the USA, it is estimated that 96% of large employers offer a teleconsultation service to their staff - meaning individuals can quickly access a primary care clinical consultation on demand via their smartphone, often on a 24/7 basis.

In the context of international business travel, many digital services are not impacted by a person's location. For example, an individual can typically utilize their online banking services via their mobile device when overseas without issue. Healthcare is however different. Localization is a key factor in service quality and regulatory compliance. Whilst a 'cross border' teleconsultation may be technically accessible from abroad, it may not be the appropriate solution or lead to the best health outcomes.

An individual's diagnosis and treatment can vary greatly depending on where they are in the world. The physician needs to have a good understanding of the local health threats, whether it's an increase in dengue during the wet season in Thailand, the risk of endemic Malaria with a patient presenting with a flu-like illness, or an outbreak of measles in New York. A hotel WiFi connection can enable an individual to access a video call with a doctor from their home country within minutes, but that clinician may lack the sufficient expertise and experience to adequately diagnose the illness.

Optimal treatment options can also vary by location. For example, antibiotic sensitivity is not homogenous globally, hence the recommended prescription medication for a urinary tract infection can be different from one country to the next.

Healthcare is a highly regulated service - with licensing usually dictated by patient location, to enable adequate protection of patients and rights to recourse. A doctor therefore needs a local license at the patient location to deliver clinical services. While online access to teleconsultation services has removed geographical barriers that traditionally existed, physicians can violate local laws if they are deemed to be practicing medicine in a foreign country without an appropriate license. Hence cross border teleconsultation services need to operate in a compliant framework, and meet licensing requirements at the location of any patients they provide services to.

On a practical level, local licensing and integration with local healthcare systems is necessary for treatment referrals and medication prescribing. A GMC licensed doctor in the UK cannot write a valid official prescription in China, or access the national Surescripts e-prescribing platform in the USA. Hence the ability to enable treatment is directly connected to the physician's compliance and integration with the local healthcare system at the patient location.

The International SOS Foundation recently published a whitepaper on this topic in collaboration with the ISfTeH, titled "**TeleConsultation Services for the Mobile Workforce: Considerations and Guidelines for the Provision of Global Services in Compliance with Regulations and Best Practice Clinical Standards of Care**". The objective of the paper was to create thought leadership in this emerging topic of global teleconsultation services, and establish best practice to help guide organizations that aim to provide or receive services. The paper was co-authored with Nathaniel Lacktman, a leading telehealth legal expert in the USA.

Our organization has embraced these best practice guidelines in our efforts to create a localized, global teleconsultation model. We've identified and credentialed local providers in 16 countries (and growing) to establish a compliant network of teleconsultation providers. When a business traveller contacts us for assistance from one of these countries, after appropriate medical triage, we may refer the patient to a local teleconsultation provider who can quickly provide a video-based clinical consultation, prescribe medication when needed to a local pharmacy, or in many locations facilitate delivery directly to the patient's hotel, followed by expediting any further medical care requirements at the patient location.

Teleconsultation holds great potential as a method enabling convenient access to care for the growing number of global business travellers. However we encourage all organizations responsible for the safety of their employees to embrace best practice and remain focused on achieving the best level of care for their most important asset - their employees.

Dr. Neil Nerwich
Group Medical Director, Assistance, International SOS
Board Member, ISfTeH

Digital solutions in preventive cardiology

The **ISfTeH Telecardiology Working Group** recently organized a webinar in partnership with the **European Association of Preventive Cardiology** (EAPC) on the topic of "digital solutions in preventive cardiology". The session was moderated by ISfTeH Telecardiology WG Coordinator, Dr. Alexandru Mischie. Speakers included Dr. Ewa Piotrowicz Head of Telecardiology Center at the Institute of Cardiology in Warsaw, Poland, and Prof. Diederick Grobbee, EAPC Past President and Head of the Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care at the University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands.



You can view a recording of the webinar by clicking the image below.



International SOS expands teleconsultation service for the global workforce



International SOS, ISfTeH corporate member and leader in medical and security risk management, has expanded its worldwide teleconsultation services to France. The clinical service is now available in 16 countries and territories worldwide, complementing its global telehealth services with virtualised access to local credentialed providers in the International SOS Global Assistance Network. The new service enables clients and members from around the world to further benefit from this global teleconsultation footprint, with the benefits of local medical knowledge and locally fulfillable prescriptions, when necessary.

Dr. Neil Nerwich, Group Medical Director, Assistance, International SOS, commented: "Teleconsultation is becoming increasingly popular as the growing global workforce demands more diverse access to fast, efficient and appropriate medical care wherever they travel. This local virtualised service adds to our extensive Assistance services worldwide capability. Members can be assured of the same high-quality care as they would receive in person, with local knowledge for accurate medical diagnosis and locally available medicines. As part of the service, members are assessed for teleconsultation and, should something change medically, can be quickly triaged from teleconsultation into alternative medical care if necessary, providing a leading solution to protect people and promote business resilience."

The new teleconsultation service is provided in conjunction with International SOS global 24/7 Assistance Centre platforms, which provide medical and security information, advice and referrals around the clock to members travelling or working abroad.

Read more about the benefits of this service [here](#).

Allianz Care selects Health at Hand as their MENA telehealth partner



Health at Hand

Health at Hand, ISfTeH corporate member and a leading telehealth provider in the Middle East, have signed earlier this year a significant telehealth contract with global blue-chip insurance company, Allianz Care, making Health at Hand's telehealth solution available to 100,000's of insured members.

Through the partnership, Health at Hand's dedicated team of in-house technology engineers have developed a cutting-edge white-labelled telehealth app, allowing Allianz Care patients to access expert DHA (Dubai Health Authority) licensed doctors via video through their mobile phone, 24/7, with zero co-pay.

Allianz Partners' Regional CEO MEA, Christian Gregorowicz, said that "Health at Hand not only met our rigorous technical and operational due diligence, but we have been incredibly impressed

with the knowledge and professionalism of their team. We are excited to start a long-term relationship with Health at Hand in the UAE and wider MENA region as we seek to offer Health at Hand's market leading telehealth solution across our membership base."

Health at Hand Founder and CEO, Charlie Barlow, commented: "This announcement is a real inflexion point for primary healthcare in the MENA region, where payers are desperately seeking viable, cost-containment solutions, as loss ratios increase and health insurance inflation spirals out of control. It is a huge endorsement for Health at Hand that we have been selected by Allianz Care, Allianz Partners' international health brand, as their regional telehealth partner, and we are delighted to be associated with such a reputable group."

For more information on Health at Hand, visit myhealthathand.com.

Telehealth technology to reduce hospital readmissions and improve outcomes for cardiac disease patients



ISfTeH member, **AMD Global Telemedicine**, a developer of telehealth solutions for healthcare organizations around the world, has integrated **MyNICaS non-invasive hemodynamic monitoring technology** to their **AGNES platform**. This technology provides a way for remote specialists to treat cardiac patients in place and identify high risk patients before they are symptomatic.

The MyNICaS hemodynamic profiling used in telehealth applications allows remote physicians to get an accurate reading of patients' cardiac output and fluid status to determine treatment right away and improve their clinical outcomes. The reading of stroke volume, cardiac output, cardiac power index, total peripheral resistance and total body water provide remote specialists with the data they need to treat patients in place and avoid exacerbations or hospital readmissions.

Heart failure is one of the most common causes of hospitalization and readmissions. "Putting this type of hemodynamic technology in the hands of clinicians around the world is a game changer," commented Eric Bacon, President of AMD Global Telemedicine. "And what better way to extend the reach of cardiologists than by adapting this technology for telehealth applications." Clinical environments that benefit the most from hemodynamic profiling integrated with the AGNES platform include outpatient clinics, heart failure clinics, skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities.

For more information, visit www.amdtelemedicine.com.

Telemedicine goes mainstream in France with an evolving regulatory landscape



ISfTeH member Robin Ohanessian, from **Telemedecine 360**, reports on the current state of telemedicine in France.

Telemedicine was introduced in the Code of Public Health in France in 2009 followed by a decree of application stating the definition and requirements to practice telemedicine. Over the past 10 years the Ministry of Health has funded many local and regional initiatives in telemedicine, starting with telestroke and teleradiology. However, activities have remained somewhat limited with the lack of funding from the national public health insurance.

In 2017, when President Macron became president of France, the government pushed the public health insurance to open negotiations with medical doctors. As a result, in September 2018, video teleconsultations started to be publicly funded for all doctors on a fee-for-service basis with similar fees in person consults. The following month, remote patient monitoring of chronic diseases was redefined to expand with capitation and performance-based models. In December 2018, pharmacists obtained funding to organize teleconsultations in their local pharmacies with remote doctors.

At the start of 2019, telemedicine was defined as a priority for continuous medical education programs and in the next month, physician-to-physician consults known as tele-expertise, started to be publicly funded. Eventually, the concept of telecare for nurses and other paramedics was introduced into the legislation in March 2019 and nurses will now additionally be funded to

organise video teleconsultations with patients from home.

Activity in the past year has been buzzing in France with many start-ups being created and growing in various telemedicine activities in diverse medical specialties. In research, the results of the first national survey of teleneurology in France were presented and the first teleophthalmology conference took place in the country.

Télémédecine 360 is dedicated to support this growth in France as well as globally with various hospitals, providers, and health authorities. For more information: www.telemedecine-360.com.

Corporate member spotlight - SATMED

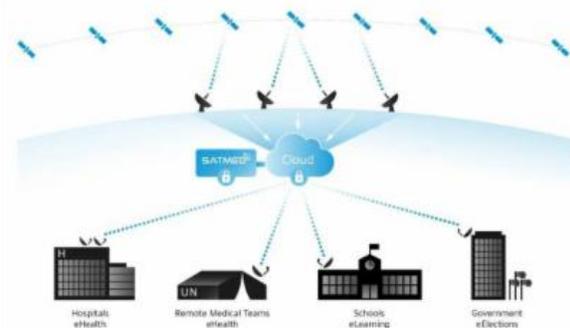


The **SATMED** initiative started as a partnership between the Government of Luxembourg and its Directorate of Development and Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs and SES in 2014.

SATMED integrates within a single platform a wide range of capabilities, including electronic medical record storage, health information systems, medical imaging, virtual consultation, e-learning, telemedicine and m-health data collection tools (i.e. OpenMRS, DHIS2, Moodle, etc.).

In addition to the SaaS services, SATMED provides data storage and offline capabilities, and last but not least satellite connectivity through the SES fleet.

SATMED is dedicated to assist non-governmental organisations that are providers of healthcare, education or health management services, governmental organisations that support regional development programs and humanitarian operations, and institutes such as medical universities or hospitals.



Recently, SATMED earned its place in "Innovative Practices in Global Health", at the 7th Edition of the Geneva Health Forum and the Health Innovation Exchange, taking place in the margins of the 72nd World Health Assembly. Furthermore, SATMED and the German Development Agency (GIZ) have established a partnership under the Hospital Partnership initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in Guinea.

The SATMED platform enables a wide range of applications and use cases helping to improve e-health access and simplifying e-health use, such as:

- Pharmaceutical inventory lists, logistics management and information systems are crucial for uninterrupted supplies of drugs for treatments.
- Patient Registration at Community Health Care Centers
- Medical cases consultation in radiology and pathology between doctors in the most remote areas of the world and partner Hospitals/Universities (i.e. Charite Berlin, Mount Sinai Hospital NY, Hamburg UKE Pathology, Essen Oncology Uniklinik, etc.)
- Quality Control checklists on hospital ships for Quality Assurance.
- SMS Patient Reminders and SMS Appointment Schedulers
- Cloud Storage for X-Ray imaging
- Health surveys with offline m-health data collection tools

Since its first deployment, studies and SATMED's partners have provided field-proven evidence of SATMED benefits, with reports indicating that SATMED helps the preservation of the World Heritage with providing healthcare services to indigenous people, noteworthy decrease in administrative and paperwork tasks, and a remarkable increase in number of patients seen daily and consequently patient face-time.

The digital revolution, an opportunity for sustainable health



(Cliquez ici pour la version Française - Click here for French version)

"The digital revolution, an opportunity for sustainable health" was the general theme of the 9th eHealth Summer University held at Castres-Mazamet, France on July 2nd and 3rd, which gathered more than 700 people from France and abroad.

It would be ambitious to provide a complete overview of all that was presented from a very diverse international and geopolitical perspective on digital health (re. UHC2030, global strategic plan on digital health, AI, and much more). However, some of the main points that were addressed included very interesting and pertinent strategic, economic, social, technical and ethical issues, supported by testimonies and feedback from Dubai, China, Benin, USA, EU, and other parts of the world, which demonstrated innovations that best meet people health needs and health management.

Highlights and calls to action included:

- development of a 'data culture', incl. pertinence and reliability, data entry, quality, security, data network, exploitation and assessment, including training programs for users at each decision level;
- having a systemic vision of mass data collection, management, and governance;
- reinforcing expertise towards organizational and coordination aspects, relating to infrastructure, interoperability, norms and standards;
- position of the regulatory bodies and public authorities in this digital revolution.

Throughout the rich exchange of experiences that took place during the conference, 'data ethics' was a transversal topic to prevent all media generated myths and hypes related to AI, and the domination of statistics intended to feed the goal of predictive medicine which has its limits and may even contradict the desire to develop a more personalized medicine.

For more information about this event: www.universite-esante.com.



Pictured right: Véronique Thouvenot (Coordinator of the ISfTeH Working Group on Women - WoW) and Philippe De Lorme (ISfTeH Board Member and Coordinator of the ISfTeH Francophonie Working Group) at the eHealth Summer University

Version Française

"Le numérique, une chance pour la santé durable" était le thème général de la 9ème Université d'été de la eSanté, rassemblant plusieurs centaines de participants français et internationaux à Castres-Mazamet, le 2 et 3 juillet dernier.

En faire une synthèse exhaustive serait bien ambitieux face à une actualité géopolitique internationale digitale en santé fort riche. (p.ex.: cadre OMS et couverture santé universelle 2030,

plan stratégique mondial de digitalisation de la santé, l'avènement de l'IA, etc.).

Néanmoins, quelques points forts sont toujours à souligner ci-dessous comme autant d'enjeux stratégiques, économiques et sociaux, techniques et éthiques s'appuyant sur des témoignages et retours d'expériences de nombreux pays, tels que Dubai, Chine, Bénin, USA, GB, IRL, etc. lesquels font preuve d'innovations tentant de répondre au mieux aux besoins de santé publique et sociétaux de leurs populations et de leurs modalités de prise en charge.

En hiérarchisant, citons:

- de l'importance de développer la culture de la donnée (data), de sa pertinence et fiabilité, sa saisie, sa valorisation, son circuit jusqu'à son exploitation/valuation incluant la formation des utilisateurs à leurs usages à tous les niveaux;
- de la nécessité de disposer d'une vision systémique des enjeux de collecte de masse de données et de leur gestion rapportée à une responsabilité de gouvernance populationnelle;
- de renforcer et encore l'expertise sur les aspects organisationnels et de coordination relatifs aux territoires, aux infrastructures, aux enjeux de l'interopérabilité, normes et standards;
- de la place de l'Etat régulateur et puissance publique dans ces révolutions digitales (tous secteurs confondus).

En marge de ces riches heures d'échanges et d'écoutes, l'éthique de la donnée était présente en prévenant tous mythes liées aux impacts médiatiques de l'IA et au monde dominé par les statistiques destinées à alimenter une médecine prédictive qui a ses limites et contradictoire avec le souci de développer une médecine personnalisée.

Pour de plus amples informations sur cet événement: www.universite-esante.com.

ISfTeH at the World Health Assembly



ISfTeH board member, Philippe De Lorme, attended the **World Health Assembly** last May and reports on some of the main issues that were raised and focused on during the Assembly:

- **UHC2030** (the global movement to build stronger health systems for universal health coverage) in line with **SDG 3** (Sustainable Development Goal 3, ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), covering a dozen projects, including the growing importance of digital health applications, the ethical culture and the relevance of data and AI (cf. relevant indicators, quality, security of information systems, infrastructures, standards and norms, interoperability, creation of exhaustive databases to help diagnoses, reduce missing cases, exploitation of data, reduce treatment costs, fight against counterfeit medicines, and more).
- Improving accessibility to care, combating communicable diseases with the reconstitution and renegotiation of the **Global Fund** in 2019.
- Priority focus on prevention and education, strengthening cooperation for training support (medical, paramedical, and including clinical and nursing research).
- Strengthening the role of digital innovation to improve population monitoring (with specific indicators on morbidity, mortality, epidemiology, communicable diseases, health crises, etc.) in the context of complicated eco-systems (all continents combined) favoring a culture of population and environmental health approach.
- Maintaining and strengthening links with health professionals so as to improve supervision of teams in the field.
- Reconciling objectives of public health with a culture of results and impact measurement.
- Focus on uses in partnership with patient communities.

Telemedicine and digital health in otology

Last May, Poland became the world capital of otology. The 32nd **Politzer Society** (International Society for Otologic Surgery and Science) Meeting took place in Warsaw. The conference was held together with the Second World Congress of Otology under the auspices and direction of **IFOS** (International Federation of ORL Societies), building a bridge between the Politzer Association and the national associations represented in IFOS.



The **Congress program** included focus on tinnitus, cochlear implants, middle ear robot surgery, genetic and congenital hearing defects, telemedicine, as well as experience in the treatment and rehabilitation of patients from different parts of the world.

The 32nd Politzer Society Meeting featured a round table discussion and a session devoted to **Digital Telemedicine and Digital Health in Otology**, chaired by ISfTeH members Wojciech Glinkowski, Piotr Skarzynski, together with E. von Wallenberg and N. Czajka.



The aim of these telemedicine sessions was to create an open forum for discussion and exchange of experience and knowledge between professionals from all over the world. Five presentations were made:

Cha and colleagues from Yonsei University College of Medicine in Seoul, South Korea presented on **"Automated diagnosis of an ear disease utilizing deep learning"**, a low-cost otoendoscopic device for eardrum diagnostics, designed for high-quality screening for ear diseases. This method can potentially be used not only for ear disease screening, but also in primary care centers where the diagnosis of ear disease is based exclusively on otoendoscopic examination without the use of additional techniques such as imaging or acoustics. This system can be a useful tool, especially for under-experienced physicians, and can significantly reduce the risk of abnormal diagnosis.

Bhargava and colleagues from Peterborough City Hospital, UK made a presentation on **"Hugging those curves - a retrospective evaluation of a trainee's training curve in endoscopic ear surgery"** in which an endoscopic tympanoplasty method was presented. Test results showed that endoscopic tympanoplasty is just as effective and fast as microscopic surgery.

Kutyba and colleagues from the World Hearing Center, Poland presented **"Mobile applications in teleaudiology - possibilities of application and their effectiveness"**, focusing on the use of mobile applications in audiology - how can they be used in everyday medical practice? How widely can they be used? The results of two selected mobile applications were tested and presented, one of which can be used to evaluate hearing and the other to treat tinnitus. The results showed that free mobile applications can be used to assess hearing thresholds and to support tinnitus.

Oron and colleagues from Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Israel made a presentation on **"Subjective Visual Vertical evaluation using a smartphone-based test"** about the use of mobile applications in diagnosing imbalances. The usefulness of the application for the detection of peripheral vestibular loss (PVL) was emphasized. The results of clinical trials and mobile applications were presented. As it turned out, both methods gave similar results. Therefore, compared to conventional methods, subjective visual perception of the vertical using mobile applications is a simple, useful and reliable way to detect vestibular lesions in the physician's office.

Finally, Rosiak and colleagues from the Medical University of Lodz, Poland presented a **"Virtual Reality exercise program for Peripheral Vestibular Deficit"** on the use of virtual reality as a form of rehabilitation treatment. The results of a study checking the effectiveness of a low-cost vestibular rehabilitation program with the use of virtual reality were presented. The results indicated that the virtual form of rehabilitation allowed for the reduction of ailments resulting from vague disorders.

The congress was attended by laryngologists, audiologists, phoniatrist and clinical engineers from 64 countries, in total about 1000 people. During 50 debates and panels, specialists and experts gave 341 presentations. The panels were led by experts from the American Otological Society, American Neurotology Society, Columbia University, Washington University, Cambridge University. The conference provided a unique opportunity to present the latest achievements and research in the field of otology and neurosurgery. The organizers also placed great emphasis on practical aspects, including training, workshops and demonstration operations. The next, 33rd, Politzer Society Meeting will be held in 2022 in São Paulo, Brazil.

Strengthening eHealth for Women's Cancer in Africa



The **Women Observatory for eHealth** of the **Millennia2025 Foundation** has recently signed a partnership with l'Alliance Mondiale Contre le Cancer (**AMCC**) and will work together with the ISfTeH Working Groups **WoW** and **Francophonie**, to support the **Forum Palliafrique**. The Forum displays information, news and experiences in French on Palliative Care for Cancer in Africa in its public website.

At eHealthWorld 2019 in Monaco, Dr. Martine Raphael, President of AMCC, presented the **Forum and Telepathology in Africa during the workshop "eHealth in Africa"**.

At the congress for **Palliative Care** (Paris, 13-15 June 2019), AMCC and Millennia2025 WeObservatory displayed brochures and information.

A new mobile application, developed by our partner **Universal Doctor** with the World Health Organisation, *mPalliative App* was launched on June 15th.

National member spotlight - SIBIM

[\(Cliquez ici pour la version Française - Click here for French version\)](#)



The Ivorian Biomedical and Health Informatics Association (SIBIM) is a scientific society, non-profit professional organization founded in 2007 to promote eHealth and the use of ICT in the Ivory Coast health sector. SIBIM organized the 6th pan African Health Informatics Conference in 2009 and the 1st Ivorian Telemedicine and Health Informatics Days (JITIM) in 2010, immediately followed by the first participation of Ivory Coast to the CATEL 'Rendez-Vous'.

Partner of the African Francophone Telemedicine Network (RAFT), SIBIM organized many medical continuous eLearning activities since 2007, marked by a Medical Training Caravan in 2015, with the collaboration of the Nurses and Maternal Health Direction (DSIM).

In 2011, SIBIM requested from the National Telecommunication Agency (ATCI), the establishment of a National Telemedicine Center (CNT). Subsequently, in conjunction with the National Coordination and Development of ICT in Health (CNDTICS), the installation and equipment for the Center was obtained through the National Agency of Universal Telecommunication Services (ANSUT). In partnership with RAFT and WUA, SIBIM is part of the Tele-ECG project since 2016. SIBIM also supports the Aga Khan Foundation's telemedicine project through its national services network.

This year, in partnership with AppSanté and MI-Teck, SIBIM will organize a national contest to award the best telemedicine and digital health projects and also digital health training/education initiatives.

SIBIM also supports the Medical Informatics Unit of the Abidjan Felix Houphouet-Boigny Medical Faculty for the implementation of an Inter-University Diploma (DIU) in Digital Health between Bamako, Dakar and Abidjan Medical Universities.

Next to being a member in the ISfTeH, SIBIM is also member of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) and Health Information in Africa (HELINA).

SIBIM collaborates with the Health and Hygiene Ministry concerning telemedicine policies, strategy and implementation in Ivory Coast.

Open to all healthcare and IT professionals or actors, the aim of SIBIM is to:

- Provide a platform for information, work, communication and international cooperation to the various actors in the field of eHealth in Ivory Coast;
- Contribute to the promotion and development of informatics in health, bio sciences and public health;
- Contribute to the implementation of micro-projects that make the health benefits of ICT tangible;
- Contribute to distance training of health and bio science professionals, knowledge sharing, promotion of good technology practices and the code of health ethics;
- Collaborate with institutions in the field, or professional associations, associations, orders and unions with synergistic objectives.

For more information: www.sibim.ci (under construction).



Version Française

La Société Ivoirienne de Biosciences et d'Informatique Médicale (SIBIM) est une société scientifique, c'est-à-dire une organisation à but non lucratif créée en 2007 pour faire connaître la e-santé en général et promouvoir l'usage des TIC en santé en Côte d'Ivoire. Dès sa création, la SIBIM a organisé la 6ème conférence panafricaine d'Informatique médicale en 2009. Nous avons ensuite organisé les 1ères journées Ivoiriennes de Télémedecine et d'Informatique Médicale (JITIM) en 2010, immédiatement suivi de l'organisation de la 1ère participation de la Côte d'Ivoire au RDV du CATEL.

Partenaire du Réseau en Afrique Francophone pour la Télémedecine (RAFT), la SIBIM a organisé avec le RAFT plusieurs formations médicales continues à distance, depuis 2007, ponctuée par une caravane de la Formation Médicale Continue en 2015, en collaboration avec la Direction de la Santé Infirmière et Maternelle (DSIM).

La SIBIM a sollicité en 2011 de l'Agence des Télécommunication de Côte d'Ivoire (ATCI) la construction du Centre National de Télémedecine (CNT), ensuite en conjonction avec la Coordination Nationale pour le Développement des TIC en Santé (CNDTIC) la SIBIM a obtenu l'équipement du centre par l'ANSUT. En partenariat avec le RAFT et WUA elle participe depuis 2016 au projet TélÉCG qui depuis 2019 a intégré d'autres partenaires en vue du renforcement et de l'extension du projet. La SIBIM a soutenu le projet Télémedecine de la fondation AGA Kahn à travers son réseau d'entreprise en Côte d'Ivoire.

Pour l'année 2019, en partenariat avec les entreprises AppSanté d'une part et MI-TecK d'autre part, la SIBIM va respectivement co-organisé un concours de détection des meilleurs projets de santé digitale à promouvoir et des formations en santé numérique.

La SIBIM a également appuyé l'unité Informatique Médicale de la Faculté de Médecine de l'Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny d'Abidjan, dans le cadre du lancement du DIU de eSanté regroupant les facultés de Médecine de Bamako, Dakar et Abidjan.

Membre de l'ISfTeH depuis 2018, la SIBIM est aussi membre de l'association internationale d'informatique médicale (IMIA) et de l'association Panafricaine d'Informatique Médicale (HELINA).

La SIBIM collabore avec le MSHP et l'ONMCI sur toutes les questions relatives au cadre juridique, à la stratégie et à l'implémentation de la télémedecine et de la eSanté en Côte d'Ivoire.

Ouverte à tous les professionnels ou acteurs de la santé et de l'informatique, la SIBIM a pour objet de:

- Offrir aux différents acteurs du domaine de la cybersanté en Côte d'Ivoire une plateforme d'information, de travail, de communication et de coopération internationale;
- Contribuer à la promotion et au développement de l'informatique en santé, en biosciences et en santé publique;
- Contribuer à la mise en œuvre de micro-projets rendant tangible les bénéfices des TIC en santé;

- Contribuer à la formation à distance des professionnels de santé et de biosciences, au partage de connaissances, à la promotion des bonnes pratiques technologiques et au code d'éthique en santé;
- Collaborer avec les institutions du domaine, ou les groupements, associations, ordres et unions professionnelles ayant des objectifs synergiques.

Pour de plus amples informations: www.sibim.ci (en construction).

Board member spotlight - Vimal Wakhlu

Vimal Wakhlu is a Life Fellow and President of the **Telemedicine Society of India** (national member for India in the ISfTeH). He is the former Chairman and Managing Director of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL), a Government of India Enterprise.



Vimal holds a Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.) from National Institute of Technology, Srinagar 1977, and MBA Marketing from IGNOU. He has 42 years of experience in the field of Telecom and Information Technology, including eNetworks, Mobile, Satellite, Microwave, Troposcatter, Co-axial, Optical Communications, Maritime Communications, International Telephony, Data and Multimedia Transmission.

Starting his career with NHPC (National Hydel Power Corporation) in 1977, followed by Overseas Communications Services (later VSNL and now Tata Communications Ltd.) till 1983, Vimal held various positions in DOT (Department of Telecom) from 1983 to 2000 and BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) from 2000 to 2006, including Director Satellite Maintenance, Western Telecom Region, and General Manager Mobile Services in Maharashtra and the North East Circles in India.

Vimal has been involved in TCIL in various capacities from December 2006 till January 2016, including Executive Director (Transmission) and Director (Technical) and Chairman & Managing Director. TCIL has scaled to new heights during this phase, besides bagging some large value global and domestic projects.

Vimal has been instrumental in the successful implementation of the prestigious Government of India's Pan African e-Network Project, a project envisioned by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the Former President of India, providing a platform to 48 nations in Africa to India for Education and Health Services.

He has served as Director on the Boards of TTL (Tamil Telecommunications Limited) and TBL International, TCIL Saudi Ltd., Bharati Hexacom Limited.

Vimal is a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) of the Project Management Institute (PMI). A Life Fellow of IETE (Institution Of Electronics & Telecom Engineers), Member of TRAC Committee; Member of the ITU APT Foundation of India and its Vice President; Member of IEEE (Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; Member of Broadband India Forum (BIF); Member of DCIF (Digital Communication India Foundation) and its current Vice President.

He has been a visiting faculty member on Business of Telecom Management in Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), and Advanced Mobile Communications, Satellite and Optical Fiber Communication in University of Mumbai, Pune University and Advanced Level Telecom Training Centre (ALTTC), an ITU Centre of Excellence.

Vimal has been participating in panel discussions at various fora, on a wide variety of subjects, including education, health, disaster management, financial inclusion, environment, energy management, security, governance, telecommunication and information technology. His specialization is in leveraging technology for mitigating challenges faced by underprivileged people of developing nations.

He is a Consultant advising companies on technology transfer, capacity building, project execution and some of the state governments on project/program management, and Director, Sustainable Smart Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Vimal is also a Member of Working Groups on the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative of ITU (International Telecommunications Union) - UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission on Europe).

To get in touch with Vimal, contact info@isfteh.org.

Upcoming ISfTeH supported meetings and conferences

ISfTeH Events:

25th ISfTeH International Conference

8-10 October 2020

Takasaki, Japan

www.gc-support.jp/jtta2020



ISfTeH Supported Events:

3rd China-Europe Innovation Forum on Smart Health and Privacy Protection (SmartHealth 2019)

19-23 August 2019

Leicester, UK

www.cybermatics.org/CyberCon/SmartHealth2019

Revolutionizing Healthcare with IT

13-14 September 2019

Hyderabad, India

www.transformhealth-it.org

WEBINAR: Digital Health Leadership in Healthcare Organizations

26 September 2019

www.anymeeting.com/PIID=EE50DE81844A3B

Telemedicon 2019

15-17 November 2019

New Delhi, India

www.telemedicon2019.com

Telemedicine and eHealth Conference 2019

22-23 November 2019

Warsaw, Poland

www.telemedycyna.org/#tiez2019-en

ICDHT 2019 - 2nd International Conference on Digital Health Technologies

15-17 December 2019

Hammamet, Tunisia

www.icdht.org

AgeingFit

28-29 January 2020

Nice, France

www.ageingfit-event.com

Portugal eHealth Summit

19-21 March 2020

Lisbon, Portugal

ehealthsummit.pt

Pro Digital Health

26-27 March 2020

Poitiers, France

pro-digital-health.com

eHealth 2020 - 25th Finnish National Conference on Telemedicine/eHealth

23-25 April 2020

Helsinki, Finland

www.telemedicine.fi

2nd Global Summit Telemedicine & Digital Health

2-5 June 2020

São Paulo, Brazil

www.telemedicinesummit.com.br

New ISfTeH members



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

National Members:



*Serbian National Association for
Telemedicine - SNAT, Serbia*



TELEMED Austria, Austria

Associate Members:



*Colegio Brasileiro de Radiologia,
Brazil*



Fondation Télémédecine, France

Corporate Start-Up Member:



Lean Health Portugal, Portugal

Individual Members:

*Ruth Alicia Lochan Winton, Sweden
Kevin Chan, Singapore
Geoffrey Coleman, UK
Simone Farah, Brazil*

Nurse Members:

*Rachel Cullen, Ireland
Konara Mudiyansele Sriyani
Padmalatha, Sri Lanka
Aric Shimek, USA*

Student Members:

*Jishen Moolamkulam, Germany
Kaylyn Pratt, USA
Nilson Nogueira Mendes Neto, Brazil
Gabrielle Brant, USA
Shaban Nuredini, Germany
Carolyn Kamasaka, Uganda
Akumonyo Nathanael, Kenya*

[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:



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

Questions, suggestions? Our board members listen to you!

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



Andy Fischer



Pirkko Kouri



Neil Nerwich



Eric Bacon



Claudia Bartz



Philippe De Lorme



Hassan Ghazal



Michele Griffith



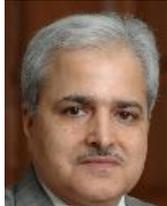
Rajendra Pratap Gupta



Piotr Skarzynski



Adolfo Sparenberg



Vimal Wakhlu

Management Board



Yunkap Kwankam



Frederic Lievens



Frank Lievens



Maurice Mars

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

ISfTeH Lifetime Achievement Awards

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



Louis Lareng



Ron Merrell



Gyorgy Miklos Bohm



Prathap C. Reddy

Watch this space for future ISfTeH Lifetime Achievement Awards!

STAY CONNECTED:



Join the ISfTeH Global Network
Click here for membership application

