



Newsletter

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International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth (ISfTeH)

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Welcome from the Newsletter Working Group

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

It is pleasure and honor to continue the newsletter activity. We would like to present you the second issue of 2008. Please, feel free to email us your comments and suggestions. Thank you very much for your contributions and assistance. I take this opportunity to remind you about the deadline for contributions for the next issue which is planned for 30 June, 2008. Please, feel free to email your comments and suggestions.

Ekaterina Kldiashvili, Ph.D.
Working Group Newsletters and Communication

Board news

■ *Med-e-Tel 2008*

Med-e-Tel 2008:

The 6th edition of Med-e-Tel took place between 16th and 18th April 2008 in Luxembourg.

About 450 professionals from over 50 countries participated in this "International Educational and Networking Forum for eHealth, Telemedicine and Health ICT".

Abstracts and PowerPoint presentations of this year's event will soon be found on:

http://www.medetel.lu/index.php?rub=educational_program&page=program.

You will also find them in the "Library-Knowledge Resources for Telemedicine &

eHealth" section, in addition to all those from the previous five editions (<http://www.medetel.lu/index.php?rub=library&page=info>).

The ISfTeH was also present with a poster exhibition, in which about 20 of its members presented achievements and projects in their respective countries. Fifteen oral presentations were given in the traditional ISfTeH sessions, which took place on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th April.

A novelty this year was the "ISfTeH Student's Working Group" serie of "virtual" presentations by 5 students from Brazil, Lithuania, Norway and Germany.

The contest for best "student's" presentation was won by Ricardo Cardoso from Brazil.

The student's presentation will also be available soon on http://www.medetel.lu/index.php?rub=educational_program&page=program.

Finally, for the third year in row, the ISfTeH organized a breakfast meeting for its members on Friday morning 18th April.



About 40 members representing 23 countries were present!

A unique opportunity for members to meet, learn to know each other and network!

The 7th edition of Med-e-Tel will take place between April 1st and 3rd, 2009, at LUXEXPO in Luxembourg.

You can already mark these dates in your agenda!

News/contributions from members

- *Canadian Society of Telehealth*
- *UK eHealth Association - Prof. Ricky Richardson, Life President of UKeHA, Vice President of ISfTeH*
- *AMD Telemedicine (USA)*
- *Polish Telemedicine Society*
- *Association for Ukrainian Telemedicine and eHealth Development*
- *Finnish Society of Telemedicine and eHealth*
- *Telemedicine Center of Kaunas University of Medicine*
- *Georgian Telemedicine Union (Association)*

- *Australasian Telehealth Society*
- *Prof. Rifat Latifi, Individual Member - Second Balkan Intensive Telemedicine & eHealth Seminar*

Canadian Society for Telehealth:

Telehealth Canada Podcast 080222 has been posted to the Canadian Society for Telehealth web site - <http://www.cst-sct.org>. The Podcasts can be downloaded through the ISfTeH website <http://www.isft.net/cms/index.php?id=1> or directly via http://www.cst-sct.org/en/index.php?module=podcaster&PODCASTS_MAN_OP=viewChannel&PHPWS_MAN_ITEMS%5B%5D=2.

UK eHealth Association - Prof. Ricky Richardson, Life President of UKeHA, Vice President of ISfTeH:

Large eHealth Networks in development - We have passed through the phase of pilot projects in eHealth and telemedicine and we have now seen the first national attempts to deliver the benefits of eHealth as an agent to transform and improve healthcare service delivery. Both Malaysia and England remain prime examples of national programmes.

The next phase is where groups of countries who share a common language, culture, history or heritage agree to set up collective eHealth networks to share medical information, knowledge and skills with benefit to all.

The Commonwealth eHealth Network is being launched by Nobel Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu on 18th May in Geneva at the Commonwealth Ministers of Health Meeting which immediately precedes the World Health Assembly. If successfully deployed, the Commonwealth eHealth programme could touch the lives of the 1.8 Billion citizens who inhabit the 53 countries which make up the Commonwealth sharing a common language and history.

I believe that the next few years will see similar large eHealth networks being established and the challenges will be to persuade the medical and nursing community to embrace the benefits in terms of healthcare outcomes that will inevitably follow.

The challenges remain huge and are not merely technology based due to the scales involved but also the process by which healthcare has traditionally been accessed and delivered will come under scrutiny as we try and adopt to the brave new world of eHealth enabled healthcare systems of tomorrow.

AMD Telemedicine (USA):

AMD Telemedicine notes 23 U.S.schools offering telehealth initiatives. For more information on AMD Telemedicine, please visit www.amdtelemedicine.com.

Polish Telemedicine Society:

Polish Telemedicine Society announces the 1st Advances in eHealth and Telemedicine International Conference that will take place in Warsaw, Poland, these autumn days of 2008. This conference shall follow the successfully introduced forum, edited already as a monograph entitled "Advances in Telemedicine and eHealth

International” vol.1. For more information, please visit www.aehti.eu.

Association for Ukrainian Telemedicine and eHealth Development:

The 2nd International Conference “Telemedicine: Myths and Reality” will be held in Lviv on 23-24 October, 2008. 1st Conference “Telemedicine: Myths and Reality” organized at the fall of 2007 by Western Ukrainian Telemedicine Center “Meditech” and Association for Ukrainian Telemedicine and eHealth Development (AfUTeHD), became really a success story of the project, that put together more than 200 participants from 10 countries worldwide.

High growth of interest in telemedicine and eHealth from different environments: physicians, managers, and decision-makers, medical and technical university officials, private sector and students, - has been ascertained. It demonstrates the necessity of regular realization of scientific and practical forums on issues of telemedicine, informatization and computerization in Health Care as well as unified electronic medical space formation. Also, it is very necessary to create scientific approaches and evidence base for development of Ukrainian eHealth.

Due to organization of such conferences and seminars it becomes possible to exchange ideas and achievements, to discuss and to create working groups. Gained experience and knowledge will ensure the future work on interoperability of medical information systems, for an effective decision making, for understanding the routine eHealth and telemedicine usefulness. For more information, please visit www.telemed.net.ua

Finnish Society of Telemedicine and eHealth:

The Finnish Society of Telemedicine and eHealth (FSTeH) organized its already 13th National Conference on Telemedicine and eHealth as a cruising on the Baltic Sea on April 2-4, 2008. The themes covered eHealth services for citizens, as well as the usability of eHealth applications and services. Top authorities from Finland, Sweden and Estonia presented their national eHealth and electronic patient record implementation programs. The countries have already advanced digital services and plan to have their national eArchives in production by 2011 or 2012. Radiologist Jarmo Reponen will continue as a president of FSTeH for the next two years. For more information, see: <http://www.fimnet.fi/telemedicine/en/>

Telemedicine Center of Kaunas University of Medicine:

Collaboration in telemedicine between Telemedicine Center of Kaunas University of Medicine (Kaunas, Lithuania) and Microgravity Center of the Pontificia Universidade Catolica Do Rio Grande Do Sul, PUCRS (Porto Alegre, Brazil) started on spring 2007, <http://tmc.kmu.lt/> and

<http://www3.pucrs.br/portal/page/portal/pucrs/Conta/AdministracaoSuperior/aaii/aaieEnglishSite>. As a result of continuing collaboration dr. Adolfo Sparenberg and prof. Thais Russomano from Microgravity Center of PUCRS visited Kaunas University of Medicine. The memorandum of understanding between the Kaunas University of Medicine and the Pontificia Universidade Catolica Do Rio Grande Do Sul is signed on March 2008. The Telemedicine and eHealth student group, involving medical and dental students, established on 23 of April 2008, collaborating with the PUCRS

eHealth student league “Litesa”.

Georgian Telemedicine Union (Association):

The implementation of the project “ePathology - Virtual Pathology Center in Georgia as the Continuation of Virtual Health Care Center” started at July 2007. The main goal of present project is to expand the infrastructure of Virtual Health Care Center (VHCC) in Georgia and to develop a new model of application of information and communication technologies (ICT) to implement and promote second opinion consultations and education in the medical field of pathology (telepathology). The project proposes to create a unified, resilient and transparent infrastructure, available on demand, in order to expedite pathology consultants between rural pathology laboratories and specialized medical centers. This is ongoing NATO Networking Infrastructure Project. To contact for information about it, participation in the project as an Expert and/or Lecturer, its realization, progress and other related documents, please contact:

1. NATO-country project director Dr. Thomas Schrader
(thomas.schrader@charite.de)
2. Georgia-country project co-director Dr. Eka Kldiashvili
(kldiashvili@georgia.telepathology.org)

Australasian Telehealth Society:

The Australasian Telehealth Society announces call for chapters for the ICMCC Digital Homecare Book and 3rd Annual International eHealth and Telemedicine (eHT) Workshop which will take place at 27-28 November, 2008. For more information, see www.aths.org.au

Australia and New Zealand now have their own TeleHealth Society; the Australasian TeleHealth Society (ATHS) which has recently affiliated with the ISfTeH. The foundation President of ATHS is Prof Kanagasigam Yogesan, and a broadly-based committee has been set up to attract members to the new organisation. As is common with many medical and scientific organisations in this region, the Society will recruit members from both Australia and New Zealand. The web site for the new organisation is www.aths.org.au and we look forward to participating in the global telehealth community.

Prof. Rifat Latifi, Individual Member:

Second Balkan Intensive Telemedicine & eHealth Seminar took place on October 21-23, 2007, in Tirana, Albania. The abstracts presented at this seminar were prepared by an outstanding international faculty and represent a wide range of subject material. This intensive seminar was part of the scheduled activities of the International Virtual e-Hospital (IVeH) Foundation (www.iveh.org), which is implementing a two-year project: “Improving Healthcare in the Balkans Using Telemedicine, Advanced Technologies, and Cultural Exchange Programs as a Platform”. This program is funded by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Exchange Agency of the Department of State of the United States. The seminar was also sponsored, in part, by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Albania, the U.S. Army’s Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research

Center (TATRC), Polycom, and VitelNet.

For more information about this events and presented abstracts, please contact Prof. Rifat Latifi (latifi@surgery.arizona.edu).

News from partners

*eHealthNews.EU Portal Research Project - Invitation for Further Collaboration
Relaunch of telederm.org - The Online Community of Dermatology /
Teledermatology*

eHealthNews.EU Portal Research Project - Invitation for Further Collaboration:

This research project is addressed to all eHealthNews.EU Portal readers interested in strengthening the European eHealth domain. The proposed publication is an open invitation for further collaboration in advancing the European eHealth Research and Industrial sectors. The main project topic is "Identification and analysis of the web based platforms and communication technologies role in stimulating the growth of the European eHealth Research and Industrial sectors with continuous monitoring of the International eHealth trends and opportunities".

Present project proposes to implement in practice a novel web based "KnowHow" platforms and communication approaches applied to the entire eHealth domain which have been already explored in the frames of the eHealthNews.EU Portal. Additionally it will study the importance of the proposed strategies/activities in advancing the European eHealth Research and Industrial sectors.

Your feedback, contribution or comments are very welcome. This publication represents one of the first attempts to describe and disseminate the eHealthNews.EU Portal background, activities and the achieved results.

Read more...<http://www.ehealthnews.eu/content/view/1069/62/>

Relaunch of telederm.org - The Online Community of Dermatology / Teledermatology:

The Community for Teledermatology was conceived in 2002. The goal of this online community is to create a surplus value for experts, physicians and healthcare workers interested in dermatology. Improving the knowledge exchange between experts and providing an easy to use second opinion service are the two main aims of this user content driven community.

The dermatology community service is based on the store-and-forward method. Users are invited to submit cases of interest to the discussion forum thus making them available for viewing and comment by all other members. In the years since its conception, the community has discussed about 4000 cases and demonstrated a steady user growth.

On 15th of April the community system was relaunched.

We used the experiences from past years to refine the system and create a further surplus value for our members.

Our main focus is to create a "state of the art" home base for The Community for Teledermatology | Dermatology with an improved user interface for easier usability. Membership in the community is completely free of charge and the site does not host or receive funding from advertising.

For more information please visit <http://www.telederm.org> or contact us directly simon.pucher@e-derm-consult.net

Publications by our Members

Hereunder, we are pleased to list recent publications by ISfTeH members, as communicated by themselves:

“Current Principles and Practices of Telemedicine and eHealth”:

Prof. Rifat Latifi - Individual ISfTeH member

IOS Press (<http://www.iospress.nl/loadtop/load.php?isbn=9781586038069>)

Upcoming events

MAY 2008

29-30 May - eHealth 2008

Vienna, Austria

www.ehealth2008.at

JUNE 2008

09-11 June - TTeC 2008

Trömso - Norway

<http://www.telemed.no/index.php?id=542870>

JULY 2008

10-12 July - eGeH'08

eGovernment & eHealth 5th International Conference & Exhibition

Desio (Milano) - Italy

www.aitim.it

29-31 July - eHealth India 2008

New Delhi - India

www.eindia.net.in

SEPTEMBER 2008

18-20 September - PACTe & NICTe 2008

Abuja - Nigeria

www.sftehin.org

OCTOBER 2008

05-07 October - the 13th ISfTeH International Conference in conjunction with the 11th Annual AGM, Conference and Trade Show of the C.S.T.-S.C.T. (Canadian Society of Telehealth)

Ottawa - Canada

www.cst-sct.org

23-24 October - 2nd International Conference “TELEMEDICINE: Myths and Reality”

Lviv - Ukraine

www.telemed.net.ua

23-26 October - Advances in eHealth and Telemedicine International -A@HTI

Warsaw - Poland

www.aehiti.eu

NOVEMBER 2008

24-25 November - TeleMed & eHealth '08

London - UK

www.rsm.ac.uk/telemed08/