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Studies in Health Technology and Informatics

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Driving Reform: Digital Health is Everyone’s Business
Selected Papers from the 23rd Australian national Health Informatics Conference (HIC 2015)

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Preface

Healthcare planners and governments across the globe are involved in efforts to stimulate innovation and to reform health systems as a means of enhancing the delivery of safe, effective and quality care to patients. Information and communication technology (ICT) is a critical component of health system innovation and a key stimulus for reform. This is because the introduction of ICT is much more than just a technical task, it involves new ways of working, networking and organising globally. The Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA) with the support of the Australasian College of Health Informatics (ACHI) have continued to be in the forefront of efforts to promote ICT-enabled healthcare reform and innovation in Australia. The Australian National Health Informatics Conference (HIC) is Australia’s premier health informatics event bringing together researchers, industry groups and healthcare providers from Australian and internationally, providing the opportunity to display and share cutting edge research evidence, technology updates and innovations.

The theme for HIC 2015 is “Driving reform: Digital health is everyone’s business”. The conference highlights the role that health informatics can play in the development of a smart digital healthcare system to drive reform and to meet increasing demands and financial pressures. In today’s environment health services are being increasingly technology-enabled so as to:

- Address increasing consumer demands and expectations
- Provide relevant, appropriate and effective real-time information to clinical practitioners
- Enhance the management and monitoring of healthcare delivery performance

The papers in this volume provide valuable research evidence and information about the diverse role that ICT plays in the health, aged and community care sectors, across Australia, New Zealand and internationally. The papers represents a wide spectrum of work encompassing major theoretical concepts, examples of key applications of new technologies and important new developments in the field of health informatics. Taken together the volume makes an important contribution to the health informatics evidence base and the quality development of ICT.

This year’s Health Informatics Conference continues and augments the double blind peer review process established in 2011 in a previous volume. All papers were reviewed by three experts in the field of health informatics, selected as prominent academics and industry specialists. The assistance of the Australasian College of Health Informatics in supporting this process through the voluntary efforts of its Fellows is gratefully acknowledged, as is the contribution made by many senior and experienced members of the Health Informatics Society of Australia. This phase of reviewing resulted in the provisional acceptance of 26 from a much expanded submission field of 51 papers. The Scientific Program Committee then undertook a validation process for all such papers that were resubmitted in amended form, to ensure that reviewers’
recommendations were appropriately addressed or rebutted. In total 26 papers were included in this volume. Congratulations to all the authors of the papers in this volume.

Andrew Georgiou
Heather Grain
Louise K. Schaper
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## Contents

Preface  
*Andrew Georgiou, Heather Grain and Louise K. Schaper*  

Acknowledgements  

HL7 Middleware Framework for Laboratory Notifications for Notifiable Diseases  
*Mehnaz Adnan, Donald Peterkin, Aaron McLaughlin and Nicholas Hill*  

A Registry Framework Enabling Patient-Centred Care  
*Matthew I. Bellgard, Kathryn Napier, Lee Render, Maciej Radochonski, Leanne Lamont, Caroline Graham, Steve D. Wilton, Sue Fletcher, Jack Goldblatt, Adam A. Hunter and Tarun Weeramanthri*  

The HealthierU Portal for Supporting Behaviour Change and Diet Programs  
*Shlomo Berkovsky, Gilly Hendrie, Jill Freyne, Manny Noakes and Kathy Usic*  

Decision Support Systems and Line Performance: Case of Gold Coast University Hospital  
*Martin Connor, Amir Hossein Ghapanchi, Michael Blumenstein, Alireza Amrollahi and Mohammadreza Najafzorkaman*  

Considering Governance for Patient Access to E-Medical Records  
*Karen Day and Susan Wells*  

Designing Technology for Assessments of CALD Patients  
*Jill Freyne, Courtney Pocock, Dana Bradford, Karen Harrap and Sally Brinkman*  

StepKinnection: A Fall Prevention Game Mindfully Designed for the Elderly  
*Jaime A. Garcia and Karla Felix Navarro*  

Le Bon Samaritan: A community-Based Care Model Supported by Technology  
*Valerie Gay, Peter Leijdekkers, Asif Gill and Karla Felix Navarro*  

An Improved Patient-Specific Mortality Risk Prediction in ICU in a Random Forest Classification Framework  
*Soumya Ghose, Jhimli Mitra, Sankalp Khanna and Jason Dowling*  

Human Activity Recognition from Smart-Phone Sensor Data Using a Multi-Class Ensemble Learning in Home Monitoring  
*Soumya Ghose, Jhimli Mitra, Mohan Karunanithi and Jason Dowling*  

Health Informatics and E-Health Curriculum for Clinical Health Profession Degrees  
*Kathleen Gray, Dawn Choo, Kerryn Butler-Henderson, Sue Whetton and Anthony Maeder*
Automatic Detection of Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Infections from Primary Care Electronic Medical Records 74
    Yulong Gu, John Kennelly, Jim Warren, Pritesh Nathani and Tai Boyce

Incidence Rate of Prediabetes: An Analysis of New Zealand Primary Care Data 81
    Yulong Gu, Jim Warren, John Kennelly, Natalie Walker and Matire Harwood

Automated Classification of Clinical Incident Types 87
    Jaiprakash Gupta, Irena Koprinska and Jon Patrick

Model Selection and Variable Aggregation of Australian Hospital Data 94
    Liam Heiniger, Norm Good and Sankalp Khanna

The Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) for Adults with Severe Communication Impairments: Findings of Pilot Research 100
    Bronwyn Hemsley, Andrew Georgiou, Susan Balandin, Rob Carter, Sophie Hill, Isabella Higgins, Paulette Van Vliet and Shaun McCarthy

Measuring Data Quality Through a Source Data Verification Audit in a Clinical Research Setting 107
    Lauren Houston, Yasmine Probst and Allison Humphries

The Hare and the Horteise: The Potential Versus the Reality of eTP Implementation 114
    Kyaw Kyaw Htat, Patricia A.H. Williams and Vincent McCauley

Use of Smartphones to Estimate Carbohydrates in Foods for Diabetes Management 121
    Jurong Huang, Hang Ding, Simon McBride, David Ireland and Mohan Karunanithi

Chat-Bots for People with Parkinson’s Disease: Science Fiction or Reality? 128
    David Ireland, Jacki Liddle, Simon McBride, Hang Ding and Christina Knuepffer

The Relationship Between Using Electronic Health Records and Meeting Accreditation Standards for Client Safety in Residential Aged Care Homes 134
    Tao Jiang and Ping Yu

A Pilot Study to Improve Access to Eye Care Services for Patients in Rural India by Implementing Community Ophthalmology through Innovative Telehealth Technology 139
    Sheila John, M. Premila, Mohd Javed, Vikas G and Amol Wagholikar

Improving Video Based Heart Rate Monitoring 146
    Jian Lin, David Rozado and Andreas Duenser

Impact of Physician Community Structure on Healthcare Outcomes 152
    Shahadat Uddin, Margaret Kelaher and Mahendra Piraveenan

Educating the Health Informatics Professional: The Impact of an Academic Program 159
    Sue Whetton and Cherie Hazlitt