

Introduction to the Information Technology in Health Care Track

The information technology in health care track at HICSS serves as a forum at which health care, computer science, and information systems professionals can come together to discuss issues related to the application of information technology in health care. While the medical, technical, and managerial perspectives each contributes to particular aspects of the health care problems, the complexity of today's problems requires more than one perspective. As a unique opportunity for cross-disciplinary interaction, we hope this track will give our conference participants and the readers of these proceedings new insights into the problems they face.

This year the track has grown to eight minitracks:

- Data and Knowledge Management in Health Care
- E-Health Strategies
- Health Care Chain Workflow Management Using IT
- Information Systems Supporting Quality Patient Care
- IT in Health Care Settings in Countries with Developing Economies
- IT-enabled Governance Structures in Health Care
- PDAs, Handheld Devices and Wireless Health Care Environments
- The Implementation, Adoption, and Diffusion of IT in Health Care

The minitrack coordinators provide brief summaries of their minitracks and overviews of the papers in their sessions.

The papers in these minitracks address a wide range of clinical, managerial, and technical issues, and report on studies from Europe, North America, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Region. The titles of the minitracks reveal some of the variety of technologies and hint at the application area: from decision support to wireless technologies; from data mining to strategic planning. Yet, despite this diversity, all of the papers have a common focus: How can information technology be use to improve the quality of care, the efficiency of the delivery of health care, and the access to health care?

In attempting to answer this question, each author has focused on a particular aspect of information technology and healthcare. Their inclusion in this track reflects on the quality, relevance, and importance of their work. We believe the collection of these perspectives provides for stimulating and productive discussions and the generation of new ideas.

I wish to thank all of the people who have worked so diligently to develop this track; I appreciate the time and effort the minitrack coordinators had to spend over the past year. The high quality collection of papers in the track is the fruit of their efforts. We look forward to the further development of this track. I welcome, and strongly solicit, your participation in this track at future HICSS conferences. Please contact me with your ideas for new minitracks or papers.

I hope you find the proceedings useful and enjoyable.

William G. Chismar

Track Chair, Information Technology in Health Care
Email: chismar@cba.hawaii.edu