

Foreward

It gives us great pleasure, on behalf of the Organising and Scientific Program Committee members, to present the Health Informatics Conference 2009 (HIC 2009) Proceedings, handbook of abstracts and full papers CD ROM.

The Health Informatics Conference is the annual event organised by the Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA). The HIC 2009 theme of **'Frontiers of Health Informatics – Redefining Healthcare'** seeks to capture the diversity of achievement in linking science and medicine with information technology. This has been clearly achieved as reflected in the papers presented in the proceedings. Health informatics research in Australia has grown considerably in recent years and HIC strives to present the best Australian health informatics research. Importantly, it looks at the practical systems and process issues that need to be addressed now, to meet the challenges of the future.

HIC 2009 was built around four key information technology themes that are driving change and innovation in Australian healthcare. Each theme looked to analyse the leading edge technologies that are being implemented and the opportunities they create. The conference papers and posters cover a board range of health informatics issues to include informatics role in translational medicine and looking at new knowledge in biomedicine / future biomedical systems particularly in relation to personalised medicine. To support this, the next generation electronic health records will have to integrate new health data sets and provide data visualising and new data management techniques. The move towards personal health records is gaining ground which will require new approaches for addressing privacy and security. Tomorrow's healthcare will see new models of healthcare delivery with an increased focus on monitoring systems, assistive technologies and the smart homecare environments. New telecare technologies are being researched to include video conferencing and virtual reality environments together with technical innovations to support healthy communities and social networking. Finally, to address the unsustainable rise in healthcare costs needs greater emphasis on preventative healthcare and wellness to include chronic disease management, population monitoring, engaging the health consumer plus genes and proteins research for predicting and preventing ill-health.

Fifty-five submissions were received, indicating continued interest in and support for health informatics and HIC. The growing number of submissions from health informatics researchers working in overseas institutions provides further evidence of the international reputation of the HISA annual meeting. Manuscripts were double peer reviewed by the Scientific Committee and 22 high quality papers were selected for oral presentations and a further 24 for e-poster presentations. All papers published in these proceedings comply with the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) E1 level publication. The Scientific Program Committee would like to thank the members of the national and international scientific community, HISA, Australian College of Health Informatics, and the many reviewers for their assistance.

The experience of HIC 2009 is enhanced by the opportunity to see the latest developments of health informatics products and the support of industry sponsors to the industry exhibition and other conference activities is sincerely appreciated and continues to be a major attraction for conference participants. We would particularly like to thank our principal sponsor the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing. Also, our associate sponsors Intel, InterSystems, Pen Computer Systems and NCS together with iSOFT, Microsoft, GE Healthcare and Cerner who have all supported this HIC 2009 event. Furthermore the ACS endorsed the conference allowing its members to count attendance towards their continuous professional development (= 15 PCP hours).

The committees would like to thank all the members and participants who help make HIC a success, many who give their time voluntarily, and the HISA staff who, as ever, go well beyond their call of duty to ensure it is a highly professional, productive and truly enjoyable event.

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