

Special Issue

Information Technology's Role in Global Healthcare Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

Over the past few decades, modern information technology has made a significant impact on people's daily life worldwide. In the field of health care and prevention, too, a progressing penetration of assistive health services such as personal health records, supporting apps for chronic diseases, or preventive cardiological monitoring could be observed. In 2020, the range of personal health services appears to be almost unmanageable. The exchange of health-related data between different healthcare providers or platforms may therefore be difficult or even impossible. From the individuals' perspective, digital services allow for a monitoring of their own health status. However, such services can also overwhelm their users, especially elderly people, with too many features or hardly comprehensible information. It therefore seems highly relevant to examine whether such "always at hand" services exceed the digital literacy levels of average citizens. This Call for Papers seeks contributions that present innovative, health-related applications or services emphasizing the role of user-centered information technology.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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