Public relations

AMIA 2014 fall conference panel: “How safe are users of Consumer Health Informatics?” Consumer Health Informatics (ConsHI) has proven beneficial for many medical and mental conditions. Since it assigns the patient an active role reliable patient contributions are a necessary condition for safe operation, but cannot be taken for granted when patient physical, mental or emotional states deteriorate. The panel presents different approaches from within and outside ConsHI (Home monitoring of cognitive and physical functions, emotion tracking, behavior in online communities), that allow early detection and curbing of the risks. Routine application of such safeguards creates large amounts of data that must be protected against privacy breaches and that must be made sense of, and it causes additional cost. Patients and policy makers therefore face choices whether to mandate such additional safety when ConsHI service go routine.

Textbook: “Consumer Health Informatics – new services, roles and responsibilities” mentioned in last year’s report is nearly ready.

Membership, leadership, outreach

The Yearbook Medical Informatics 2014 includes our article: Engaging Patients through Mobile Phones: Demonstrator Services, Success Factors, and Future Opportunities in Low and Middle-income Countries. Based on this we will try to leverage the opportunity of two subsequent IMIA GAs in Low and Middle Income Countries (India, Brasil) to approach authors of services covered in the survey and others where contacts have already been made and to encourage themselves or to identify colleagues to attend the Consumer Health Informatics WG meeting at either of the conferences. A respective invitation has been extended. Among the mid term goals of these activities are a white paper with recommendations that go beyond those in the above survey and ideally the creation of new funding resources.

Heidelberg, August 15, 2014

(Prof. Dr. Thomas Wetter)