Telehealth (Updated July 2013)

Website (Online Discussion Group): IMIA_tele@googlegroups.com

Chair (2012 - 2015)
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Objectives
The Telehealth Working Group aims to be IMIA’s vehicle for stakeholder for advocacy and capacity building to use Informatics towards enabling as well as providing quality healthcare to areas outside the precinct of medical establishment.

The IMIA Telehealth WG hopes to engage members from the international health informatics community, across sectors, to identify, explore, collaborate, and disseminate research on the use of technology to foster Telehealth.

The main focus areas we are working in are
- Low resource areas under which include developing countries as well as unreached populations as well as tribal communities even in Developed societies.
- Community based services - important both for service delivery as well as data collection for health planning.
- Home based care and personalised medicine
- We are finalizing our projects

Recent Activities
The Working Group was proposed at Cape Town in 2010 and was officially approved in 2012. However our working group as well as online activities started immediately with the very first preliminary meeting taking place in 2010 itself. Since then we have been discussing and sharing our work. Two papers which have been published in IMIA yearbook as follows:

IMIA Yearbook
Individual achievements of the members pertaining to the WG activities in the past year

Dr S B Gogia
- President of SATHI (www.sathi.org) an NGO working in Telemedicine. One of our current activities pertain to using Telehealth systems for Eyecare. This project is currently running in Mizoram district in North Eastern India, and is planned to expand to other locations. The other is establishment of Telemedicine supported Limb Care clinics in the Filaria affected districts of India as well as in Cancer Hospitals.
- Papers related to the above were presented at NCMI 2012 (biennial conference of IAMAI - Indian Association for Medical Informatics) and later at APAMI 2012 in Beijing as well as few other meetings in India and Bangkok
- India has been selected to host APAMI 2014 which shall be held from Oct 31st to Nov 2nd in New Delhi. We hope to have special session on Telehealth.

Prof Anthony Maeder
- President, Australasian Telehealth Society, 2012-3
- General co-chair, Global Telehealth 2012 Conference, Sydney
- Co-chair, Standards Australia Telehealth Subcommittee and Australian delegate to ISO TC215
- Distinguished Visiting Professor, Rhodes University, South Africa Feb-March 2013 working on ICT4D and mHealth

Prof G Hartvigsen
- Has written a book that documents the telemedicine effort in Norway the last 20 years. The book will be presented as a 3 hours tutorial at Medinfo 2013 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- As part of his sabbatical leave at UC Davis, California (2011-12), he was studying the development of telemedicine/telehealth services in California. Currently working on a book about the development of telemedicine in California.
- Shall also be attending ATA 2013 (San Antonio, TX) and HIC 2013 (Adelaide)

Future Activities
- The official submission of our working group - Working Solutions for Telehealth in Low Resource Areas (Id=936) by Gogia SB, Basu A, Meher S, Mars M, and Hartvigsen G has been accepted for presentation in Medinfo 2013. The authors will be presenting 4 real life case studies from these areas and guide the audience to the path to success.
- We shall be holding our physical meeting at Medinfo 2013. We look forward to more membership from IMIA members as well as increase in activities