

Social and Health Informatics Research

Social and health informatics research (medical informatics, nursing informatics, health informatics, social informatics) is defined as the *art and science*, the development and evaluation methods and systems of social and health-related data, information and knowledge acquisition, processing and interpretation, using the scientific knowledge and scientific methods of investigation. (cf. van Bommel Jan H. & Musen Mark A. (toim.) 1997. Handbook of Medical Informatics).

Social and health informatics research requires an interdisciplinary research approach and utilizing the knowledge base and theories of different disciplines such as data processing and information science, mathematics, administrative sciences and health sciences. Social and health informatics research focuses on the information (data, information, knowledge) of health and social care processes, software, data processing and data transmission systems and procedures required for data acquisition, data storage, information retrieval and knowledge use in social and health care. (Pirkko Nykänen. *Terveydenhuollon tietojenkäsittely - katsaus tieteen alaan ja sen tilanteeseen Suomessa 2010*. *Tietojenkäsittelytiede* 30; Sirpa Kuusisto-Niemi & Kaija Saranto. *Sosiaali- ja terveydenhuollon tiedonhallinta - Paradigma tieteenalan perustana 2009*. *FinJeHew* 1 (1). Increasing the research in this field in Finland and in Finnish scientific publications in journals is essential. Social and health informatics research can be used generate evidence-based information as a basis for developing software solutions

The purpose of the Finnish Social and Health Informatics Association is to serve as a link among practitioners, to promote its practical and scientific development and application. The Finnish Social and Health Informatics Association is to organize the 15th Social and Health Informatics Conference where Finnish research in the field of social and health informatics will be presented. Presentations will provide an overview of research in health and social informatics, including a wide range of research e.g. medical signal processing, data management of health care and social service activities through the development of information systems. The Conference welcomes two key-note speakers. Mikko Nenonen's keynote presentation is based on his article entitled *Takana loistava tulevaisuus-Suomalaisen terveydenhuollon tietoteknologian neljä ensimmäistä vuosikymmentä* describing the last forty years of health informatics in Finland.

The conference papers will be published for the first time as original articles in the *FinJeHew* journal. The manuscripts have undergone scientific peer review. The evaluators this year were Anneli Ensio, Kari Harno, Hannele Hyppönen, Eija Karsten, Johanna Kaipio, Sirpa Kuusisto-Niemi, Johanna Lammintakanen, Juha Mykkänen, Pirkko Nykanen and Kaija Saranto. Thanks to all these reviewers for their contributions to the conference program and to the quality of the journal publications.

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Editor-in-Charge