

## Greetings from the Finnish Society for Telemedicine and eHealth

The Finnish Society for Telemedicine and eHealth (FSTeH) was founded 11 January 1995 and it is thus the second oldest society in its field, right after the American Telemedicine Association. FSTeH is a scientific society with a vision to act as an opinion leader in the field of telemedicine, eHealth and related issues both in Finland and internationally.

The society is a multiprofessional and interdisciplinary organisation. There are more than 250 individual members and nearly 30 company members coming from various professional backgrounds including medical doctors, nursing staff, authorities, software engineering, the university-based research community, ICT industry and the health care market. This provides an extraordinary opportunity to exchange different views and improve shared understanding.

The FSTeH is strongly determined to advance education and training in the field of medical ICT and eHealth. The most important activity here is the Finnish annual National Telemedicine and eHealth conference. At regular intervals, it has also been enhanced by an international conference with a wider audience. With this scope in our mind, we believe that this journal, The Finnish Journal of eHealth and eWelfare, will further serve this educational aim.

Our society is committed to international collaboration and we are already founding members of the International Society of Telemedicine and eHealth (ISfTeH) and Nordic Telemedicine Association (NTA). We also enjoy close collaboration with other European eHealth societies as well as with the Japanese Telemedicine and Telecare Association (JTTA). Also here we believe the now emerging new journal will help us to discover new territories and that the journal will serve as a powerful communication tool. We hope future articles will distribute information about the Finnish healthcare information and communication technology research and solutions. It is equally important to publish articles which describe similar or different approaches around the world.

Finland has built an advanced digital environment for its healthcare. Our patient record information is today almost completely stored and distributed in electronic format. The standardized and safe communication infrastructure enables us to exchange this information regionally between primary and secondary care. In the coming years the same high level interactivity will be everyday practise also at the national level. The Finnish showcase is remarkable in a European and international context and surely also helps us to deliver interesting content to this journal.

Finally I would like to thank our co-publisher, the Finnish Social and Health Informatics Association (FinnSHIA), which has made a great effort in giving the young scientists the possibility to publish their results and connect to the international community within medical informatics. It has been an interesting and exciting task to start this new journal with them - I am looking forward to the coming years of collaboration.

With these words I would like to wish this journal a great success.

**Jarmo Reponen, Chairman**