The noise of how to transform healthcare organizations into more efficient and effective institutions can be deafening. The attempts to employ healthcare information systems and technology, as well as the accompanying management principles, seek to improve quality of service, inclusive of bettering patient and provider relations and promoting internal efficiencies that reduce costs. Healthcare information systems and technology research provides a mechanism to help bring this change to fruition. The papers in this special issue address a number of ways to enable transformation in healthcare from various perspectives concerning inter and intra organizational factors.

The first paper titled “Transformation of the Hospital Supply Chain: How to Measure the Maturity of Supplier Relationship Management Systems in Hospitals?” addresses internal mechanisms of Swiss hospitals to assess the complexity and breadth of the management systems. These systems are devised to support supplier relationships in the effort to reduce costs, provide the necessary tools in an efficient manner to improve care delivery, and promote collaborative learning between suppliers and hospital management.

The second paper titled “Innovation in ICT-Based Health Care Provision” concerns transforming psychiatric services and care delivery in Norway using mobile phone technology that spans internal and intra-organizational processes. As in the last paper, existing power structures serve as barriers to promoting change with technology innovations. However, this paper provides a description for how to break with the fundamental isomorphism between task structure and design structure that helps in understanding the innovation processes leading to the development of a new technical solution and the corresponding organizational change processes necessary to transform healthcare delivery.

The third paper titled “Evolution of Information Systems and Technologies Maturity in Healthcare: A Social Network Approach” continues the theme that transformation of care requires an examination of maturity in the management practices of information systems and technology implementations. It provides metadata on how internal and external entities describe the level of complexity for types of healthcare information technology, which are helpful for organizations to assess the level
of technology embeddedness necessary to bring about the desired change in technology-enabled care.

The fourth paper titled “Implementation of Evidence-based Practice and Information Systems in Healthcare: A Social Network Approach” provides another perspective on transformation via technology-enabled mechanisms. The research examines provider practice inclusive of use of technology in an infectious disease program. The paper is particularly helpful for healthcare practitioners and researchers who seek new approaches that are socially oriented to improve the implementation of EBP-related systems.

Collectively, these papers provide a breadth of mechanisms to explore for transformation of the care and delivery of services in healthcare. The insights are timely but are informative to have lasting research and practical implications for bringing about the necessary change and desired state of technology enabled care practice.

Finally, a review of "Lose IT!" is included to illustrate the trend of technology in transforming healthcare through influencing individual care and impacting on lifestyle changes. Future implications for the development of such electronic tools require research into the connection of key variables dictated by the relevant theoretical body of knowledge and the translation of such knowledge to practice.

Chon Abraham
Wendy Currie
Monica Garfield
Guest Editors
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