

## Guest Editorial Preface

# Special Issue on M-Health Innovations for Quality in Healthcare

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Innovations in Mobile Healthcare (mHealth) offer unique opportunities to increase the quality of healthcare. MHealth is the use of mobile devices (e.g. smartphones) in healthcare. In contrast to traditional telemedicine, which was limited by stationary computers, the mobile aspect is a quantum leap forward: It enables a wider spread of healthcare and facilitates immediate access to medical information.

The fundamental idea of all innovations in mHealth is to allow wireless communication over geographical distances. This information transfer leads to a spread of knowledge and expertise.

This special issue of the *International Journal of Reliable and Quality E-Healthcare* on *M-Health Innovations for Quality in Healthcare* presents the huge variety of mHealth Innovations. It demonstrates that mHealth can improve efficiency and quality and access to care in different socioeconomic structures. Innovative projects in low-, middle- and high-income countries show the immense potential of mHealth.

An introduction to the ideas and capabilities of mHealth is given by Ajay Rana in his position paper. India, as a country with antagonisms and disparities in healthcare, experiences a vast increase in smartphones and wireless technologies.

In the second article, Nafisa Vaz demonstrates that the increasing distribution of mobile devices in low- and middle-income countries can be used to promote education and enhance health literacy. That results in a better health status of the whole population.

In the third article, Livia Bellina and Ilenia Nucatola evince that the picture and video function of smartphones can be used to transmit medical images over a geographical distance to outbalance healthcare disparities. That can be used, for instance, to transfer microscopic images from a rural area of a low-income country to a pathologist.

The fourth article by Camilla Metelmann and Bibiana Metelmann focuses on the transmission of video, in real-time, from a medical emergency site to a remote emergency physician. This video communication can help paramedics at the emergency site and thus increase patient safety in prehospital emergency medicine.

The fifth article by Katharina Witzke and Olaf Specht analyzes how a video connection can support the treatment of medical emergencies, which occur in a dental practice. Depending on the kind of emergency, the video guidance can be either by an emergency doctor or by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

In the sixth article, Anne Kirschner, Stefanie Kirschner, Christian Seebauer, and Bedriska Bethke display, how a video connection, in real-time, can support nurses treating outpatients. Illustrated by

the example of the treatment of chronic wounds with cold atmospheric plasma, the authors show, how video support can be used in nursing.

The seventh article by Yiannis Koumpouros tackles the problem of obesity, which already contributes immensely to the health burden in high-income countries and is expected to be a growing challenge also in low- and middle-income countries. The article describes how an mHealth application can solve, in an innovative way, this problem by targeting the individual in a multifaceted approach.

Conclusively, the articles of the special issue indicate the immense potential of mHealth innovations to increase healthcare globally on an individual- and community-level.

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