

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Anastasia N. Kastania, Athens University of Economics and Business, Athens, Greece

*Anastasios Mourtzoglou, Hellenic Society for Quality & Safety in Healthcare, Athens, Greece
& P. & A. Kyriakou Children's Hospital*

There is a substantial body of research, describing shortfalls in the current provision of healthcare. Key issues emerging from this literature are significant variations in the quality of healthcare and risk of iatrogenic harm. On the other hand, there has been considerable progress in information technology effectuating a high capacity to exploit technological developments in relation to aspects of healthcare provision. Moreover, glimpses of future healthcare establish a wider use of nanotechnology, individualized drugs, cell-based computing and microchip-enhanced brains.

Notwithstanding the previously mentioned prospects, there has not been a systematic research and evaluation of the empirical literature on e-health applications and their impact on the quality and safety of healthcare delivery. Relevant theoretical, technical, developmental and policy literature has not been synthesized with a view to producing a definitive overview of the interaction.

The *International Journal of Reliable and Quality E-Healthcare* (IJRQEH) exploits a novel framework for revealing, understanding, modeling and implementing appropriate reliability and quality interventions leading to quality assurance and improvement. It addresses a variety of issues which relate to the quality

and reliability assurance of e-healthcare, patient safety, patient empowerment, education on quality, e-medicine, and e-healthcare evaluation. It aims to international leading edge research and best practice with a view to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the international debate on theoretical and practical aspects of quality, patient safety, and e-health interaction.

As a result, it supports students understand the effect of new technologies on health systems, helps healthcare professionals better understand their patients, acts as an assistant for patients to derive more benefits from their healthcare, and encourages e-health systems designers and managers to ground everyday practice on quality principles. Its target audience includes students, healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, managers, policy makers, and non-profit organizations.

The eighth issue of the journal provides an overview of the topics of interest. Specifically, the first four articles come from the *International Conference on Electronic Health* (ICEH), which was held in Tehran, Iran, Nov 29-30, 2012 while in the fifth article, Georgi Chaltikyan, Armen Avoyan, Ruben Hovhannisyan, Tatul Saghatelyan, Aleksandr Aroyan describe the Armenian health system emphasizing on the Information and Communication Technologies

sector. They argue that some revival of the field in the recent years is primarily related to consistent efforts by the authorities to develop e-health, and the emergence of the national professional organization – Armenian Association of Telemedicine (AATM).

In conclusion, the eighth issue confirms the journal's impact, which could be summarized as follows:

- Probing into the interaction of quality and e-health;
- Providing essential information to assess e-health systems and services;

- Offering information about reliability modeling in e-health networks;
- Inquiring state of the art methods in quality, patient safety, patient empowerment and education in e-health;
- Describing reliable e-healthcare processes and policies.

*Anastasia N. Kastania
Anastasius Moumzoglou
Editors-in-Chief
IJRQEH*

Anastasia N. Kastania, Ph.D., received her B.Sc. in Mathematics and her Ph.D degree in Medical Informatics from the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. She works in the Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece since 1987. Research productivity is summarized in various articles (monographs or in collaboration with other researchers) in international journals, international conferences proceedings, international book series and international books chapters. She has more than twenty years teaching experience in University programs and she is the writer of many didactic books. She also has ten years experience as Researcher in National and European Research Projects. Research interests are telemedicine and e-health, e-learning, bioinformatics, tele-epidemiology, mathematical modeling and statistics, web engineering, quality engineering and reliability engineering.

Anastasius Moumzoglou, Ph.D., is an Executive Board Member of the European Society for Quality in HealthCare (ESQH), and President of the Hellenic Society for Quality & Safety in HealthCare (HSQSH). He holds B.A in Economics (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens), MA in Health Services Management (National School of Public Health), MA in Macroeconomics (The University of Liverpool), and Ph.D. in Economics (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens), He works for 'P. & A. Kyriakou' Children's Hospital and teaches the module of quality at the graduate and postgraduate level. He has written three books, which are the only ones in the Greek references. He has also served as a scientific coordinator and researcher in Greek and European research programs. In 2004, he was declared "Person of Quality in Healthcare", with respect to Greece. His research interests include healthcare management, quality, knowledge management, pensions, and the dualism of the labor market.