

# **Global Telemedicine and eHealth Updates: Knowledge Resources**

**Vol. 3, 2010**

Editors

Malina Jordanova and Frank Lievens

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International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth (ISfTeH)

Coordinating Office

c/o Frank Lievens

Waardbeekdreef 1

PO Box 12

1850 Grimbergen

Belgium

phone: +32 2 269 8456

fax: +32 2 269 7953

e-mail: [telemedicine@skynet.be](mailto:telemedicine@skynet.be)

[www.isft.net](http://www.isft.net)



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## Preface

The third volume of the series “Global Telemedicine and eHealth Updates: Knowledge Resources”, is now in your hands.

With 136 papers from over 50 countries, the book presents a collective experience of experts from different continents all over the world. Papers reveal various national and cultural points of view on how to develop and implement Telemedicine/eHealth solutions for the treatment of patients and wellbeing of citizens.

Year after year the series “Global Telemedicine and eHealth Updates: Knowledge Resources” provides a glimpse and summarizes the most recent practical achievements, existing solutions and experiences in the area of Telemedicine/eHealth.

Brought to life by contemporary changes of our world, Telemedicine/eHealth offers enormous possibilities. The technological solutions are available and ready to be implemented in healthcare systems. Telemedicine/eHealth services are advancing and acceptable to both patients and medical professionals. If carefully implemented, taking into account the needs of the community, Telemedicine/eHealth is able to improve both access to and the standard of healthcare, and thus to close the gap between the demand for affordable, high quality healthcare to everyone, at any time, everywhere, and the necessity to stop the increase in healthcare budgets worldwide.

Telemedicine/eHealth is already a must, a fantastic challenge for the future, but it must be based on cooperation and coordination at all possible levels. It requires networking and planning, readiness to learn from others, and avoiding re-inventing the wheel. The main challenge is to be sure that available options are used optimally and in a coordinated manner as to ascertain that the desired effects do come true and the resources are indeed not diverted away from basic needs.

We are convinced that this book will provide useful information to those who are preparing to introduce Telemedicine/eHealth in their regions or countries. It will allow them to rely on the experience of others and will make them aware of the benefits and problems that were encountered during and after implementation of systems or services, and as such help them to avoid mistakes and reduce potential problems.

Yet, it is necessary to underline that:

- The content of the book is divided in chapters covering various areas of eHealth;

- Chapters and papers in each chapter are arranged alphabetically;
- The original style of the authors was kept as much as possible;
- “How”, “Where”, “When” and if possible “How Much” – are only part of the questions that authors are trying to answer.

We hope that everyone involved in Telemedicine/eHealth will find this book not only interesting, but valuable as well.

Enjoy your reading!

Editors

Malina Jordanova, MD, PhD  
Educational Program Coordinator, Med-e-Tel  
Solar-Terrestrial Influences Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
Bulgaria

Frank Lievens

International Coordinator, Med-e-Tel  
Board Member, Secretary and Treasurer of International Society for  
Telemedicine & eHealth (ISfTeH)  
Belgium & Switzerland

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