

# Annals of Information Systems

Volume 19

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Ashish Gupta • Vimla L. Patel  
Robert A. Greenes  
Editors

# Advances in Healthcare Informatics and Analytics

 Springer

*Editors*

Ashish Gupta  
College of Business  
University of Tennessee Chattanooga  
Chattanooga, TN, USA

Vimla L. Patel  
Center for Cognitive Studies in Medicine  
and Public Health  
New York Academy of Medicine  
New York, NY, USA

Robert A. Greenes  
Department of Biomedical Informatics  
Arizona State University  
Scottsdale, AZ, USA

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# Preface

The field of biomedical informatics is undergoing rapid transformations due to recent developments in healthcare information technologies (HIT), new healthcare acts, federal regulations, new healthcare financing model, and the growth of data science. This is collectively having a tremendous impact on various care delivery processes, clinical decision-making, and outcomes. Due to the complexity of healthcare operations, data, and multiple stakeholders (e.g., patient, provider, payers), the impacts of recent innovations and transformations in this area require increased systematic study and research.

This volume addresses these issues and contains an important collection of articles that present recent research in healthcare information technology and analytics. In particular, the following key thematic areas are addressed.

A well-designed HIT system can have a multifaceted impact on various stakeholders and can require a deep-dive understanding of behavioral, cognitive, and perceptual factors. For example, Kato-Lin et al. investigate the impact of technology failure on electronic prescribing behavior in primary care; Dinev et al., on the other hand, focus on understanding user attitudes toward electronic health records from a privacy perspective; Thrasher studies the impact of information technology integration on integrated delivery systems; and Petter et al. evaluate emergency response medical information systems.

It is critical to reduce errors and improve patient safety. This can be done through various mechanisms. One approach is to design new and improved clinical systems or procedures and validate them. An excellent example of this is the paper by Myneni et al., which proposes a new risk assessment framework for critical care units and validates it in clinical settings. Another approach is to improve medical training through the use of persuasive technologies. For example, Khanal and his colleagues provide a comprehensive review of the historical work, as well as the state-of-art virtual world application for improving medical training.

Systematically evaluating various decision outcomes and using modeling approaches to gain better understanding of different care scenarios also play a vital role in reducing various medical errors. For example, Frezee et al. utilize a latent growth modeling approach to understand lifestyle decisions based on patient

historical data, Ramsey et al. investigate the dynamic decision-making tasks of primary care physicians treating patients with chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes, and Bosire et al. design an integrated surgical care delivery system using axiomatic design and petri net modeling approaches.

Various healthcare processes and operations can significantly benefit from automated processes. The study by Loy and his colleagues validates the use of robotic operations for better inventory management and supply chain control in a health system pharmacy.

Big data and analytic approaches hold great promise for the biomedical field. The adoption of such approaches should lead to the development of next-generation innovations in healthcare and technology and serve as a guide to policy making. As our ability to process complex data increases due to next-generation computational infrastructure and the field of data sciences grows, we will see increased applications of real-time applications (such as in stroke) and smart systems such as cognitive systems integrated seamlessly into healthcare processes and technology. This clearly warrants a more aggressive research agenda. Montero et al. studied analytics of decision-support theoretic assistants based on contextual gesture recognition. This is a good example of integrating affective computing and analytics for patients requiring rehabilitation. The study by Scotch et al. uses natural language processing for understanding contraceptive use at the VA and is a good application of processing unstructured healthcare data. Scalability of such data sets requires shifting toward big data platforms and will likely facilitate the effective discovery of patterns.

Papers such as those collected in this volume indicate the kinds of research that are needed as healthcare transformation continues. Finally, we thank all the authors for making important contributions to this collection and the large pool of reviewers who provided valuable time to review the manuscripts.

Chattanooga, TN, USA  
New York, NY, USA  
Scottsdale, AZ, USA

Ashish Gupta  
Vimla L. Patel  
Robert A. Greenes

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# Contributors

**Khalid Almoosa M.D.** Divisions of Critical Care Medicine, UT Health, Houston, TX, USA

**Valentina Albano** Department of Business Studies, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy

**George Biltz** School of Kinesiology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

**Joshua Bosire** Cooper University Hospital, Camden, New Jersey, USA

**Cynthia Brandt M.D. M.P.H.** VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, CT, USA

Yale Center for Medical Informatics, New Haven, CT, USA

**Jesse Breidenbach Pharm.D.** Sanford Health Medical Center Fargo, Fargo, ND, USA

**Trevor Cohen M.B.Ch.B., Ph.D.** Center for Cognitive Informatics and Decision Making, School of Biomedical Informatics, UT Health, Houston, TX, USA

**Alessandro D'Atri** Late Director of the Research Center on Information Systems (CeRSI), LUISS University of Rome, Rome, Italy

**Tamara Dinev** Department of Information Technology and Operations Management, College of Business, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, USA

**Toni Fera** Independent Healthcare Consultant, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Ronald Freeze** University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA

**Ann Fruhling** School of Interdisciplinary Informatics, College of Information Science & Technology, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE, USA

**Tejas Gandhi** Navicent Health, Macon, Georgia, USA

**Ashish Gupta Ph.D.** College of Business, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN, USA

**Paul Hart** Department of Information Technology and Operations Management, College of Business, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida, USA

**Paul E. Johnson** Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

**Keith T. Kanel M.D., M.H.C.M.** Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Prabal Khanal Ph.D.** 3D Systems Corporation, Andover, MA, USA

**Mohammad Khasawneh** Department of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering, State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, NY, USA

**Pratap Kotala M.S.** College of Science and Mathematics, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, USA

**Sylvia Leung** VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, CA, USA

**Yi-Chin Kato-Lin M.S.** Frank G. Zarb School of Business, Hofstra University, 134 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549, USA

**Maari L. Loy Pharm.D., M.B.A.** Sanford Health Medical Center Fargo, Fargo, ND, USA

**Miriam Martínez** Acapulco Institute of Technology, Av. Instituto Tecnológico S/N, Crucero del Cayaco, C.P. 39905, Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico

**Debra McGinnis R.R.T.** Memorial Hermann Hospital, Houston, TX, USA

**José Antonio Montero** Acapulco Institute of Technology, Av. Instituto Tecnológico S/N, Crucero del Cayaco, C.P. 39905, Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico

**Sahiti Myneni M.S.E.** Center for Cognitive Informatics and Decision Making, School of Biomedical Informatics, UT Health, Houston, TX, USA

**Robert Nelson Pharm.D., B.C.P.S.** Sanford Health Medical Center Fargo, Fargo, ND, USA

**Patrick J. O'Connor** HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research, Minneapolis, MN, USA

**Rema Padman Ph.D.** The H. John Heinz III College, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Bela Patel M.D.** Divisions of Critical Care Medicine, UT Health, Houston, TX, USA

**Vimla L. Patel Ph.D., D.Sc.** Center for Cognitive Studies in Medicine and Public Health, New York Academy of Medicine, New York, NY, USA

**Stacie Petter** Department of Information Systems, Hankamer School of Business, Baylor University, One Bear Place #98005, Waco, TX 76798, USA

**T.S. Raghu** Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA

**Gregory W. Ramsey** The Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD, USA

**Monte Roemmich Pharm.D.** Sanford Health Medical Center Fargo, Fargo, ND, USA

**William A. Rush** HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research, Minneapolis, MN, USA

**Matthew Scotch Ph.D., M.P.H.** VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, CT, USA

Department of Biomedical Informatics, Arizona State University, Samuel C. Johnson Research Bldg, 13212 East Shea Boulevard, Scottsdale, AZ 85259, USA

**Marshall Smith** Banner Health, Phoenix, AZ, USA

**JoAnn M. Sperl-Hillen** HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research, Minneapolis, MN, USA

**Krishnaswami Srihari** Department of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering, State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, NY, USA

**Luis E. Sucar** Department of Computer Science, National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics, Tonanzintla, Mexico

**Evelyn Thrasher** Gordon Ford College of Business, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, USA

**Rodney D. Traub Ph.D.** College of Business, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, USA

**Ajay Vinze** Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA

**Shengyong Wang** Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Akron, Akron, OH, USA

**Julie Womack C.N.M., A.P.R.N., Ph.D.** VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, CT, USA

**Heng Xu** College of Information Sciences and Technology, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA

**Limin Zhang Ph.D.** College of Business, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, USA