

# REPORT ON MED-E-TEL: THE INTERNATIONAL eHEALTH, TELEMEDICINE AND HEALTH ICT FORUM, 5–7 APRIL 2017, LUXEMBOURG

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The Med-e-Tel is a conference organised by the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth (ISfTeH). This year was the 15<sup>th</sup> event organised since 2002.

The ISfTeH philosophy is to promote knowledge and experience about telemedicine and e-health on the international scale, as well as to provide worldwide access to expert reviews related to these fields. The Society encompasses numerous working groups, each focusing on a specific medical discipline or application. Med-e-Tel is one aspect that supports ISfTeH in implementing its missions. Every working group highlights its accomplishments during special sessions centered on their subject area.

Principally, the program of Med-e-Tel 2017 covered practical issues and the everyday telemedical experience of medical practitioners, doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, IT specialists, and subjects themselves (i.e. patients).

The main program occupied the period from 5 to 7 April. Additionally, two pre-conference sessions took place on 4 April. The first was a telecardiology workshop session hosted by the European Cardiac Society, the working group of the ISfTeH cardiologists, and the Luxembourg Cardiac Society. The other session was devoted to interactions between patients and healthcare professionals, and was hosted by Social Media (SoMe), one of the ISfTeH working groups.

The conference began with a series of lectures summarising the outcomes of the WHO Global Observatory for eHealth (GOe). Some round table meetings were organised in cooperation with the Agence eSante Luxembourg. These were dedicated to artificial intelligence and multidisciplinary consultations, software used in healthcare, as well as the quality of telemedical healthcare delivered by means of services and applications.

Diverse thematic sessions during Med-e-Tel gave an opportunity to listen to lectures and participate in workshops on everyday telemedical practice such as pharmacy, oncology, cardiology, nursing, obstetrics, first aid, rehabilitation, and data protection issues, as well as legal, security, and educational requirements.

On the second day, there was a session on teleaudiology hosted by the ISfTeH Teleaudiologic Working Group. The highest record of achievement in the field was presented by the team from Kajetany. The session was moderated by Ass. Prof. Dr Piotr Henryk Skarzynski, MD, PhD, who gave an introduction to teleaudiology by sharing experiences of recent challenges and solutions encountered by professionals in the World Hearing Center and the National Network of Teleaudiology. Mgr Maciej Ludwikowski, director of the Department of Teleaudiology, delivered a lecture about the results of hearing screening in some African countries. Another lecture was given by a representative of Cochlear, who discussed the effectiveness of Cochlear Link, a new application for diagnosing problems with a CI processor. Then Iwona Tomaszewska-Hert, MA, described audiological tediagnosis of patients from Kyrgyzstan using auditory brainstem responses. At the end of the session, Lukasz Bruski, PhD, compared costs incurred for remote fitting of cochlear implants and for traditional fitting. The session finished with a discussion resulting in numerous proposals for cooperation between worldwide centres and the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing.

The Med-e-Tel conference was more than an opportunity for presenting achievements. It was also an opportunity to establish contacts with specialists from around the world. Thanks to numerous exhibitions, the event was an opportunity to become familiar with the latest technologies and solutions, as well as to establish new forms of cooperation and partnership.