"Health Behavior in the Information Age"

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Journal of Healthcare Informatics Research invites papers for a special issue on Health Behavior in the Information Age.

Health behavior is a primary contributor to health outcomes at all levels (i.e., primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary) of care. As health behavior takes place mostly outside of health care settings, it is both challenging and imperative to implement systems and processes for collecting high-quality data about health behavior. Relatively few health behaviors are accurately assessed in standard assessments or captured in EHR. For this reason, the published literature in the field of healthcare informatics mainly addresses topics that contribute to improving systems and methods for supporting clinical discovery and the delivery of care in health care settings, rather than supporting behavior change in settings where the behavior takes place.

In this special issue, we seek methodological and empirical papers that address the challenge of quantitatively measuring and assessing health behaviors, or computationally evaluating the effectiveness of behavior change interventions.

In order to enhance the impact of this work, we are very interested in papers that are strongly grounded in a health problem of interest and health behavior theory. Additionally, those that view data limitations as an opportunity to make a contribution (rather than a reason not to pursue a topic) are welcomed.

Examples of topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Passive sensing of behavior through smartphone sensors or wearable devices
- Natural language approaches (e.g., social media, email, etc.) for learning about health behaviors
- Enhanced approaches to data capture of behavior in clinical settings and/or in EHR
- Linking disparate data sources to better understand health behavior
- Longitudinal studies of health behavior dynamics
- Use of computational methods for understanding and/or supporting cognitive, decision, self-regulatory, and/or other important health behavior relevant processes

Please submit (via email) your letter of intent to both of the issue editors, Ching-Hua Chen (chinghua@us.ibm.com) and Joshua Smyth (smyth@psu.edu), by the submission deadline below and use the following email subject line: “JHIR Special Issue on Health Behavior – Letter of Intent”. Your letter should include an abstract of no more than 200 words describing the intended research objective and methodology.

IMPORTANT DATES:
- Letter of Intent (mandatory): August 31, 2017
- Paper submission deadline: November 30, 2017
- First Decision to Authors: February 15, 2018
- Final manuscript due: April 30, 2018

PAPER SUBMISSION:
- Authors are encouraged to submit high-quality, original work that has neither appeared in, nor is under consideration by, other journals.
- All papers will be reviewed following standard reviewing procedures for the Journal.
- Papers must be prepared in accordance with the Journal guidelines: http://www.springer.com/41666.

Christopher C. Yang, Drexel University, Editor-in-Chief
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