
Editorial

Margarita Sordo

Harvard Medical School,
1 Constitution Center, Suite 260L,
Charlestown, MA 02129, USA
E-mail: msordo@dsg.harvard.edu

Biographical notes: Margarita Sordo is a Senior Medical Informatics Researcher at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Computer Engineering from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México; an MSc in Artificial Intelligence from University of Edinburgh, and a PhD in Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science from University of Sussex. He has more than 15 years of experience in Medical Informatics. Her research interests focus on applying artificial intelligence and knowledge elicitation and formalisation techniques in various areas of healthcare. She is a member and regular contributor of several international associations and institutions, and has served as Programme Committee and Session Chair Member of international conferences, as well as reviewer for prestigious journals and publications in medical informatics and clinical medicine. She has published several papers and book chapters in the area of artificial intelligence and medical informatics.

It is my great pleasure to present the first issue of the *International Journal of Computers in Healthcare*. The idea of creating ‘yet another journal’ in the subject was born from my perception that most journals put too strong an emphasis on the novelty of computational techniques, leaving the application field – healthcare – as a rather secondary issue. It is my belief, however, that for a computational solution to be truly transformative in healthcare it has to fully address the healthcare issue at hand by means of creative, innovative computational techniques, so that the proposed solution is not only interesting from an academic point of view, but useful in the day-to-day. I do understand that this approach might not be easy, that it might require developing new approaches upon existing ones; that a solution might only be reached incrementally. Or that, on the other hand, finding a solution might require deviating completely from a current path and building parallels from other realms, transforming them to provide creative healthcare solutions.

Based on this premise, the main aim of the *International Journal of Computers in Healthcare* is to provide an international forum for exchanging results of original research ideas and concepts in both computer science and artificial intelligence techniques in biomedicine and healthcare. The *International Journal of Computers in Healthcare* focuses on articles that report novel approaches of wide healthcare significance in all areas of computer science and artificial intelligence, e.g. decision support systems, medical diagnosis, data mining, e-health, knowledge management, information retrieval and text mining.

I believe that this new journal will provide a unique forum for the communication, dissemination and advancement of forward-thinking, high quality, multi-disciplinary

work at the forefront of our field, and that it will be of most interest to professionals, academics and researchers in medical informatics and healthcare.

With the launching of this the first issue of the *International Journal of Computers in Healthcare* my co-editors-in-chief and myself have ensured that the journal starts a tradition of excellence and interdisciplinary work that hopefully will further flourish and advance the application of computational and artificial intelligence techniques in healthcare. We are grateful for the participation of an excellent team of collaborators who are willing to share their time and expertise as members of our editorial board to ensure that published papers are of the highest quality and meet the main aim of this journal.

Personally, this is – and has been – intellectually stimulating, and I do appreciate the opportunity, not only to interact with other scholars and in the process expand my horizons and enrich my knowledge, but to provide a medium for researchers to share their work and ultimately benefit other people's lives.

Finally, I would like to thank my co-editors-in-chief, all unflagging staff at Inderscience, and fellow reviewers for their tireless work toward getting this endeavour started.