Editorial

Alexander McLeod

Information Systems Department,
University of Nevada,
Reno, NV 89511, USA
E-mail: amcleod@unr.edu

Nilmini Wickramasinghe

School of Business IT and Logistics,
RMIT University,
GP.O. Box 2476,
Melbourne Vic 3001, Australia
E-mail: nilmini.work@gmail.com
E-mail: nilmini.wickramasinghe@rmit.edu.au

Biographical notes: Alexander McLeod is an Assistant Professor of Information Systems at the University of Nevada, Reno. He received his PhD in Information Technology from the University of Texas at San Antonio. His research interests include individual and organisational performance involving enterprise systems, healthcare information systems, tax and technology and information system security. He has published in *Communications of the Association of Information Systems, CPA Journal, Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education, Fraud, International Journal of Biomedical Engineering and Technology, International Journal of Business Information Systems, International Journal of Electronic Healthcare, International Journal of Healthcare Information Systems and Informatics, Journal of Business Ethics, Journal of Information Privacy and Security, Journal of Information Science and Technology, and Journal of Information Systems Education.*

Nilmini Wickramasinghe at RMIT University's School of Business IT & Logistics researches and teaches within the information systems domain including knowledge management, IT and strategy, change management, decision making and e-business with particular focus on the applications of these areas to healthcare. She is well published with more than 100 refereed scholarly articles, more than 10 books, numerous book chapters, an encycloapedia and a well established funded research track record. She is Editor-in-Chief of two scholarly journals published by Inderscience and the Book Series Editor for Healthcare Delivery in the Information Age published by Springer.

This selection of papers was chosen from numerous papers presented in the various healthcare minitracks at the 2009 AMCIS conference held in San Francisco, California. Currently in the USA, healthcare reform is a key topic and the Obama administration is

encouraging all Americans to work together to design and build a better healthcare system. We believe that critical to any good healthcare system is the use of technology coupled with important management principles. Most especially, technologies such as electronic healthcare systems can only reach their full potential if leading management theories such as the principles of Knowledge Management (KM), task technology fit, healthcare costs and security principles are incorporated into their design and use. Hence the purpose of this special issue is to provide researchers with a collection of papers that discuss technology initiatives, the incorporation of KM principles to effect superior healthcare delivery, cost as well as other critical considerations most notably security.

'Location context for knowledge management in healthcare' by Ahsan et al. is the first paper in the collection. This paper discusses the use of a KM approach namely that of using an enterprise architectural tool to facilitate business and IT alignment in a UK based healthcare setting.

Steininger et al. discuss the instance of healthcare knowledge transfer using Web 2.0 in an Austrian healthcare setting in their paper titled 'Healthcare knowledge transfer through a web 2.0 portal: an Austrian approach'.

Security technologies and their effect on electronic healthcare record use is the key focus of the paper by Hewitt entitled 'Exploring how security features affect the use of electronic health records'.

El-Gayar et al. assess user satisfaction, acceptance and performance impacts of a healthcare information systems through the use of task technology fit in their paper 'Evaluating task-technology fit and user performance for an electronic health record system'.

'Pricing transparency in healthcare for the underserved: a lesson from the Persian Gulf' by King, details the experience of a small hospital located in the Persian Gulf that integrated an outpatient physician order entry and billing system offering several lessons.

González-Reinhart uses an interpretivist case study to apply punctuated equilibrium theory to understand the change process within the context of an electronic medical record system implementation title 'Understanding an electronic medical records system implementation through the punctuated equilibrium lens'.

'Examining the effects of healthcare technology on US hospitals' operational cost' by Byrd and Byrd examines early IT investments by hospital systems to determine if integrated IT applications help reduce cost.

In the final paper of this collection, Conklin and McLeod propose security mechanisms to protect electronic health records in 'Information security foundations for the interoperability of electronic health records'.

As can be seen, the chosen papers present research examples from not only the USA but also other countries. Taken together we believe these special issue papers provide a rich, thought provoking collection. The papers should facilitate future research into the various areas, support the incorporation of information technologies and therefore facilitate superior healthcare delivery. Clearly it is not possible in one special issue to answer all the important questions or present all the critical issues but we have endeavoured to present a collection of papers that will serve to enable, enhance and foster appropriate and sound research in the area of technology enabled healthcare delivery. We hope you enjoy reading these papers as much as we have enjoyed working with the authors to compile this special issue.