



Symposium

**“Ethical aspects of digital solutions in nursing care. An interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral dialogue.”
Hannover, 16.9.-18.9. 2020**

The Institute of History and Ethics of medicine organizes the symposium “Ethical aspects of digital solutions in nursing care. An interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral dialogue”. The symposium is sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation, and takes place from Sept. 16.-18.2020 in castle Herrenhausen, Hanover, Germany.

Aims and scope of the symposium

Digital solutions in nursing care are currently being developed, or have already been implemented in various fields of application. Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) systems and telenursing applications provide support for elderly people, and seek to empower patient autonomy by providing the required support for a self-determined living at home. In care facilities, AAL systems can also be used to reduce the workload of nursing care professionals by fulfilling monitoring tasks. IT-based applications are used for electronic nursing documentation, which saves time as well as costs and provides a more efficient work organization. These applications also facilitate the exchange of data between different care providers, thus allowing for a better coordination of services. Assistive robots can be used to support nursing care professionals in straining physical activities such as lifting, carrying, and mobilizing the patient. They can also help with further patient-centered tasks such as feeding and hygienic procedures. In addition, social assistive robots can interact with patients, accompany them on walks, play games and other leisure activities as well as provide emotional support. Mobile devices and personal digital assistants play an increasingly important role in the daily practice and education of nursing professionals. These devices also facilitate new forms of learning and the implementation of evidence-based nursing, e.g. as platforms for augmented and virtual reality in addition to serious games.

The vast amount of research publications indicates that digitization in nursing care has become a major research topic. However, ethical aspects of digitization in nursing care are underrepresented, especially as nursing ethics can still be considered as an emerging field in some countries, including Germany. Ethical issues in digitized nursing care are multifaceted, arise in various contexts, and are, in part, determined by the cross-sectoral organization of nursing care. Thus, an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach is needed which will facilitate a dialogue between the multiple actors and disciplines involved. Providing the actors with an opportunity to share their expertise and perspective. Hence, it is the goal of the symposium to engage experts from medical informatics, engineering science, nursing science, social sciences, and ethics in an interdisciplinary dialogue.

The Volkswagen Foundation offers, with the castle Herrenhausen, the opportunity to launch such a discourse in a closed event, a discourse to hopefully be continued beyond the shared days in Hannover.

Call for abstracts

The majority of the 40 participants of the symposium consist of invited experts from Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, the UK, USA, Canada and Japan. We have, however, planned for 10 spots that will be advertised by calls for abstracts. These participants will have the possibility to present their projects on digitized solutions in healthcare in two moderated poster sessions and to discuss their projects with the international experts present. Requirement for the participation is the willingness, to also actively take part in all the other sessions.

We invite researchers from the aforementioned and associated disciplines to submit abstracts for poster presentations. The poster should deal with one of the topics of the symposium. Projects on the ethics of digitized nursing care, as well as projects on the development or implementation of digital solutions in nursing care, and nursing education may be presented. Regardless of the specific topic, posters should tackle ethical aspects of digitized nursing care.

Possible topics are:

- Ethical challenges of the man-machine-interaction
- Safeguarding autonomy and quality of life of users
- Privacy and data security
- Ethical aspects of IT-based nursing documentation and work organization
- Issues arising from the digital transformation of nursing practice and education
- Issues connected to specific digital applications in nursing care and nursing education (e.g. AAL-systems, wearable sensors and monitoring devices, assistive robots)

To apply for a poster presentation, please submit an abstract (max. 500 words) as well as your CV. Submission deadline is April 15, 2020. Please send your documents as a PDF-file to giovanni.rubeis@histmed.uni-heidelberg.de. All travel- and accommodation costs are covered by us. Conference language is English.

Important dates

Submission deadline for abstracts: Apr. 15, 2020

Notification of acceptance: May 2, 2020

Date of symposium: Sept. 16.-18, 2020

Organization

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