

**REPORT: 8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN
HEALTH:
Samos Island, Greece: 15–17 July 2010**

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The theme of the conference focused on information communication technologies in health. The organisers of the conference included the Research and Training Institute of the East Aegean (INEAG), Greece; National and Kapodistrian University of Athens – Faculty of Nursing, Greece; University of Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology, Austria; Institute of Biomedical Engineering, Bogazici University, Turkey; and the Greek Health Information Association (GHIA).

There were about 60 delegates from across the world representing Jordan, Texas, Turkey and Amsterdam. I was the only delegate from South Africa. Delegates comprised health care professionals from various disciplines and specialty areas.

The opening lecture focused on cross-sector communication and continuity of care by using standards for an integrative health environment. Other conference sessions and workshops of the first day included medical image processing and techniques; how to use quality criteria for health information systems for successful health care support; telemedicine and mobile health applications; and women in Minoic Crete.

The second day offered lectures and workshops including primary healthcare information systems (scope, implementation and application); identification of duplicates in a hospital information system; Q-methodology – bridging between qualitative and quantitative methods in health research; evaluation studies (I presented a paper on computer-assisted instruction during this session), intelligent systems; health care special topics such as determinants of burnout among nurses in Greek hospitals; clinical care special topics; and Medical image processing and techniques.

The third day's sessions addressed health management issues; health care economics and management; health care applications, patient monitoring and empowerment and intelligent systems.

The last evening of the conference the delegates were entertained with Greek music, dancing and food and offered opportunities to network. The conference proceedings book and compact disk were given to all delegates.

APPRECIATION

Through others' presentations, I was exposed to the latest developments in technology, treatment modalities and patient management. I presented a research paper, which was an opportunity for professional growth. Networking channels were established.

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the Chair of the Department of Health Studies and my colleagues for their support. Unisa's management is thanked for affording me the opportunity to attend this international conference.