Report of the Special Session on Women 2014

" Women, eHealth and Telemedicine at All Ages of Life: From Birth to Old Age"

10 April 2014, 14:00 – 17:30

Presented by the Women Observatory for eHealth (WeObservatory) and the ISfTeH Working Group on Women (WoW)

With support from Connecting Nurses, Connecting Midwives and Sanofi

Speakers of the Women Special Session: left to right
D. Manset, J. Lemaire, J. Serrano Pons, S. Coumel, L. Murrugarra, V. Kola, A. Schmauss, C. Forget, V. Thouvenot, K. Holmes, L. Lhotska.

Introduction

For the second year running, the Special Session on Women was organized at Med-e-Tel by the Women Observatory for eHealth (WeObservatory) and the ISfTeH Working Group on Women (WoW), with support from Connecting Nurses, Connecting Midwives and Sanofi.

Introductory remarks where provided by Yunkap Kwankam, Executive Director of ISfTeH, Regina Ungerer, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland and Anna E. Schmaus-Klughammer, ISfTeH Working Group on Women (WoW).

Yunkap Kwankam laid emphasis on gender balance at Med-e-Tel and the ISfTeH as a whole, that shows interesting progress between 2013 and 2014. The participation of women at Med-e-Tel as speakers and chairs has grown from 29% to 38 %, and is expected to reach 50% by 2016. The ISfTeH Board has welcomed one more woman, and more are expected after the elections in 2015.

Regina Ungerer pointed out that women represent slightly more than 50% of the world's population. Two thirds of all women are illiterate, and only nine presidents in the world are women. Given this context, the Millennia2025 Foundation and its partners are fully committed, through the creation of the Women Observatory for eHealth (WeObservatory), to address women's issues and improve access and use of ICTs for health by women.

Anna Schmaus-Klughammer closed the introductory remarks by welcoming to the session, the speakers and the moderators.

Summary of the presentations[1]

Thirteen presentations were made during the session, covering various aspects of eHealth and Telemedicine in diverse contexts, to address the health needs of women in underserved areas, through big data solutions, use of social media, education and research, multilingualism and connected platforms.

In countries like Ethiopia, Peru and Kosovo, speakers highlighted the empowerment of women's health by ICT, such as mobile phones for maternal health (Sinan Khaddaj, Ethiopia), One Laptop per Child for ePrevention (Lady Murrugarra, Peru) and Telemedicine for Diabetic Footcare (Vjolca Kola, Kosovo). ICT is used in these contexts to expand health information and knowledge in remote and under-deserved locations and communities. Reaching women and empowering health professionals remain an immense challenge. Common barriers identified in the Women and eHealth Study 2010 - 2012[2] were emphasized by the speakers – barriers such as absence of communication in local languages, cost, local maintenance capability, and long term sustainability of projects.

In such contexts more effort is needed, as the impact of Telemedicine and eHealth on women's health remains limited and fragmented. Pregnant women are one of the most fragile segments of patient populations, and the use of ICT is not currently enough expanded to overcome the shockingly high number of unnecessary annual deaths, estimated to 300,000. Zero Mothers Die[3] (Jeannine Lemaire) presented a global approach and technical solutions for improving the health of pregnant

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women. And overall, eHealth and mHealth for maternal health must be embedded in a more global environment that includes extends to othersectors to cover water, nutrition, roads, electricity, and rapid transportation, as presented by Women's and Health Alliance (WAHA) in the Arsi area in northern Ethiopia (Sinan Khaddaj).

The use of the power of big data was demonstrated through two presentations in predictive treatments in paediatrics (David Manset) and breast screening mammography (Elisabetta Tosi). Both studies describe innovative decision support systems to improve diagnostics and treatments for children and women. Big Data constitutes an emerging field that will offer powerful decision making processes, reduce medical errors, and foster quality of healthcare.

One presentation focused on the use of Twitter (Kristie Holmes). Although each tweet is limited to 140 characters, tweets can provide an impressive contribution to the rapid dissemination of information, in particular for reaching persons and for announcing urgent events or disasters. Yet, social media are not really accepted by the medical corpus, but patients and women in particular use them on a daily basis.

Education and Research were highlighted as a major focus to empower women in eHealth and telemedicine. The first presentation in this area focused on education at the university level of girls in the IT and Engineering fields (Lenka Lhotska) at the Czech Technical University. Girls engage in IT for multiple reasons. But too few get adequate jobs and recognition of their capabilities in these fields. Distance medical education (Anna Schmaus-Klughammer) is another aspect of great interest to respond to the needs of women need, with online solutions to produce and publish lectures on the web, constitute communities of practice and excellence through secure communication and information sharing, as in Mongolia. Additional information and online hands-on experience were provided during a Workshop held on Friday 11 April. The final presentation in this area focused on violence against women in the intimacy of the family, which was studied as a PhD dissertation research, to improve readiness and manage partner agression (Raquel Gomez Bravo).

Multilingualism, highlighted as a crucial need in the WeHealth Study 2010-2012, was addressed with the official launch of UniversalNurse Speaker[4] (Jordi Serrano Pons), a new translation tool to facilitate multilingual healthcare communication across language boundaries between nurses and patients. UniversalNurse Speaker is tailored to support nurses in communicating with patients, and vice versa, in multiple languages. This will empower nurses to deliver care to patients in diverse multicultural settings. UniversalNurse Speaker is powered by UniversalDoctor translation technology used by hospitals and patients worldwide.

The role of nurses in addressing health issues for women in the communities, was fully recognized (Claudia Batz), and the ISfTeH Telenursing working group[1] is active in extending their reach through technology, while improving the quality of healthcare delivery worldwide. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) informed the audience of the ICN International Conference and CNR, 19-23 June 2015, Seoul, Republic of Korea, on the theme "Global Citizen, Global Nursing"[2].

Connected platforms offer impressive opportunities for women, in particular nurses and midwives. Connecting Nurses[5] (Sylvie Coumel) and Connecting Midwives[6] (Caty Forget) facilitate the exchange of innovative solutions through interactive professional connections and forums. Through these online exchanges, nurses and midwives can improve professional practice, thereby, reducing maternal and newborn mortality and improving health outcomes for women, especially those in the

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[4] http://www.u-nurses.com/
[5] http://www.connecting-nurses.com/web/
[6] http://connectingmidwives.com/web/

world's most underserved communities. In partnership with the Millennia2025 Women and Innovation Foundation, both platforms are engaged into the Women Observatory for eHealth (WeObservatory[7]) that provides support to selected projects[8] in Africa, America, Asia and Europe. These projects cover Mental Health (Canada and Congo DR), HIV (Canada), ePrevention (Peru), Wounds Care (France), Diabetic FootCare (Kosovo), Maternal Health (Spain, Nigeria, Philippines), Elderly (Philippines) and Emergencies during disasters (Philippines). More projects will join the WeObservatory by end 2014.

Discussion

Participants raised the issues of exit strategies for the WAHA project implemented in northern Ethiopia, which is highly dependent on the location of the project, the infrastructures and policies and funding mechanisms in place. It was also suggested that IT be introduced to nurses together with hands-on exercises, practical teaching, learning from each other, and not just IT engineering courses at the PhD level.

Conclusion

The Women Session at Med-e-Tel 2014 offered a dynamic opportunity to share expertise and field experiences on eHealth and Telemedicine solutions addressing women's health needs. Further actions are planned along the four dimensions of women in eHealth and Telemedicine described in the WeHealth Study 2010 – 2012, namely: women as beneficiaries, as health professionals, as IT engineers, and as leaders. The Women Session at Med-e-Tel 2015 will focus on Education Online and eLearning.

Partners of the Women Session are warmly thanked for their continuous support and the beautiful stand at the exposition, displaying innovative eHealth solutions developed at Sanofi. Congratulations to the team who staffed the stand, for their assistance during the three days of the event, Anne Gourdon, Doyna Zharavina, Tinou-Pai Blanc and Cyril Frankel.

Stand Connecting Nurses and Women Observatory for eHealth

Meeting with ISfTeH at Med-e-Tel 2014

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[7] http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObservatory
[8] http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObs_Selected_Projects

Programme

14:00 – 15:45
Moderator
Anna E. Schmaus-Klughammer, ISfTeH Working Group on Women (WoW)

Introductory Remarks
Yunkap Kwankam, ISfTeH
Regina Ungerer, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
Anna E. Schmaus-Klughammer, ISfTeH, Working Group on Women (WoW)

Observing Telemedicine and eHealth for women at all ages of life: the WeObservatory
Veronique Thouvenot, Millennia2025 Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland

MD-Paedigree, a clinically-led international project for personalized and predictive treatments in paediatrics
David Manset, Gnubila Technology, France

What Did I Post to Make the Prime Minister Follow Me?
Kristie Holmes, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA

IT and Engineering Education: How to Make It More Attractive for Women?
Lenka Lhotska, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic

eLearning in LAC, online courses on Dengue, Malaria and Leishmaniasis
Lady Murrugarra , Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, IMT "AvH", Lima, Peru

UniversalNurse Speaker: Improving multilingual communication - ICT Tools for Capacity-building of Community and Frontline Health Workers
Jordi Serrano Pons, UniversalDoctor Project, Barcelona, Spain

Official Launch of UniversalNurse Speaker

Showcase of videos Connecting Midwives and Connecting Nurses
Caty Forget, Fondation Sanofi Espoir, Paris, France
Sylvie Coumel, Sanofi Corporate, Paris, France

16:00 – 17:30
Moderator
Kristie Holmes, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA

Zero Mothers Die – A global project tackling maternal and child mortality using ICTs and mobile health
Jeannine Lemaire, Zero Mothers Die Association, Geneva, Switzerland

mHealth experience in the Arsi Zone in Ethiopia
Sinan Khaddaj, WAHA International and Sanofi Espoir Foundation, Paris, France

Diabetic Foot Care- Experience in Kosovo: How we manage to provide diabetic foot care in diabetic patients – Women involvement in Telemedicine in Kosovo.

Vjollca Kola, Kosovo, Hallux-Podiatria – Gjakove, Kosovo

Dashurije Koshi, Telemedicine Center, Gjakove, Kosovo

Computer Aided Detection (CAD) in breast screening mammography: the ItaCAD study.

Elisabetta Tosi, Centro di Screening Mammografico- Distretto, Padova, Italy

Distance Medical Education: Produce and publish your own lectures on the web

Anna E. Schmaus-Klughammer, Klughammer, GmbH Germany

Readiness to Manage Intimate Partner Violence in Primary Care

Raquel Gomez Bravo, Luxembourg

Contacts

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Links

Foundation Millennia2025: http://www.millennia2015.org/millennia2025_foundation

WeObservatory: http://www.millennia2015.org/WeObservatory

Connecting Nurses: http://www.connecting-nurses.com/web/

Connecting Midwives: http://connectingmidwives.com/web/

ISfTeH Working Group on Women: http://wow.isfteh.org/

UniversalWomen: http://www.u-women.com/

UniversalNurse: http://www.u-nurses.com/

Zero Mothers Die: http://www.zeromothersdie.org/