



## Editorial

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With this issue, we re-launch eHealth International, the official journal of the International eHealth Association (IeHA), an organization established in 2001 and dedicated to the promotion of health and wellbeing of all citizens of the world through the effective use of information technology in its various forms as well as the integration of health systems to enhance their efficiency, effectiveness and quality. The Journal is dedicated to the timely dissemination of accurate, and reliable information on the various applications of eHealth. These include the use of information technology in the delivery of personal and non-personal health services; more specifically, the use of information technology to streamline health care processes, to enhance the quality of the living environment, and to promote the adoption healthy life styles. While the major focus of the Journal is international, it aims to serve as a medium for the exchange of reliable information between scholars, academics, system and program developers, policymakers, providers, and other stakeholders in health care at the national and regional levels as well. It will publish results of research studies, policy analysis, program descriptions, perspectives, communications, and relevant news and information. Manuscripts will be submitted to peer review.

Whenever a new journal is launched or an old one activated, one may legitimately ask whether another publication is really needed, and whether there is a true publication niche to be filled. Given the human and material cost, we had to ask ourselves the same question.

Additionally, since the Journal would be offered free of charge to its readers, we had to ask whether the dissemination of this information would justify the effort. We believe the Journal has a place and warrants our support. Limiting the scope of a professional journal or other publication is perfectly legitimate and offers unique benefits in terms of specialization in specific fields of medical science or practice and the advancement of knowledge in a specified area. However, the comprehensive approach of this Journal has unique advantages in terms of providing a broader vantage point, which examines the wide range influences on health, including medical intervention, environmental quality, and life style. It incorporates the various fields of medical science as well as public health including epidemiology, environmental and industrial health, health management and policy, and health behavior/health education. The broader perspective allows us to view the forest and the trees. In one sense, this approach can be more demanding since it requires knowledge and expertise across a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines and practice areas. It calls for the integration of knowledge from various disciplines in the pursuit of health, wellbeing and happiness.

Recent developments with emerging and re-emerging diseases, famine, natural and man-made disasters point to an ever shrinking world and mutual dependency – one which necessitates bridging gaps between countries, regions and cultures of the world. The eHealth International Journal is dedicated to this ambitious goal.