

Medical Informatics: Past, Present, Future

Reinhold Haux

Peter L. Reichertz Institute for Medical Informatics University of Braunschweig - Institute of Technology (TU Braunschweig) and Hannover Medical School (MHH)

Past President of IMIA

history of this talk

- From 1999 to 2012 I have been serving in the Board of IMIA, the International Medical Informatics Association, among others
- from 2007 to 2010 as its President.
- The ideas presented in this talk have been presented
 - first in 2009 at CoMHI in Hiroshima, Japan,
 - then, revised, at 2010 at Medinfo in Cape Town, South Africa.
- A manuscript appeared in 2010 in the International Journal of Medical Informatics.
- It was may 'fare well gift' as President.



structure

- medical informatics
 - past
 - present
 - future
- discussion

details in: Haux R. Medical Informatics: Past, Present, Future. Int J Med Inf. 2010.



structure

- medical informatics
 - past
 - present
 - future
- discussion

Summary points

- The aim of this essay is to reflect about medical informatics as a discipline.
- Its main goal is to emphasize some promising future research directions which may become important parts of medical informatics.

details in: Haux R. Medical Informatics: Past, Present, Future. Int J Med Inf. 2010.



structure

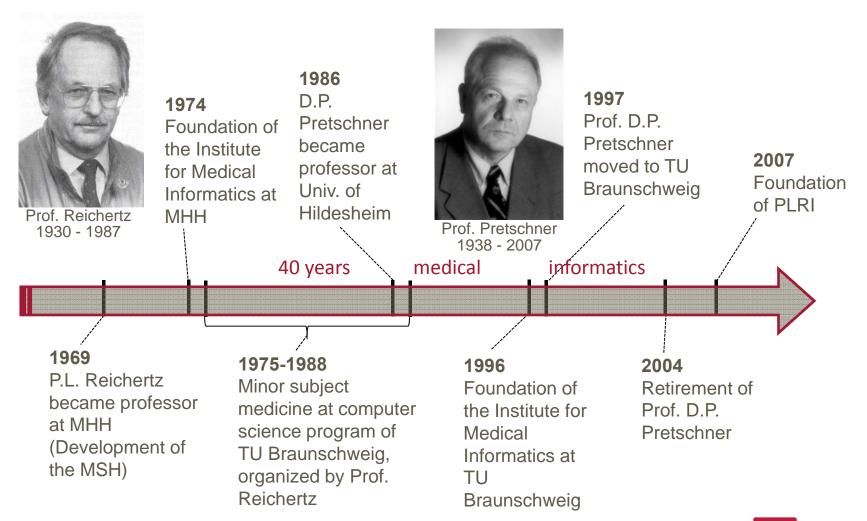
- PLRI
- medical informatics
 - past
 - present
 - future
- discussion

Summary points

- The aim of this essay is to reflect about medical informatics as a discipline.
- Its main goal is to emphasize some promising future research directions which may become important parts of medical informatics.

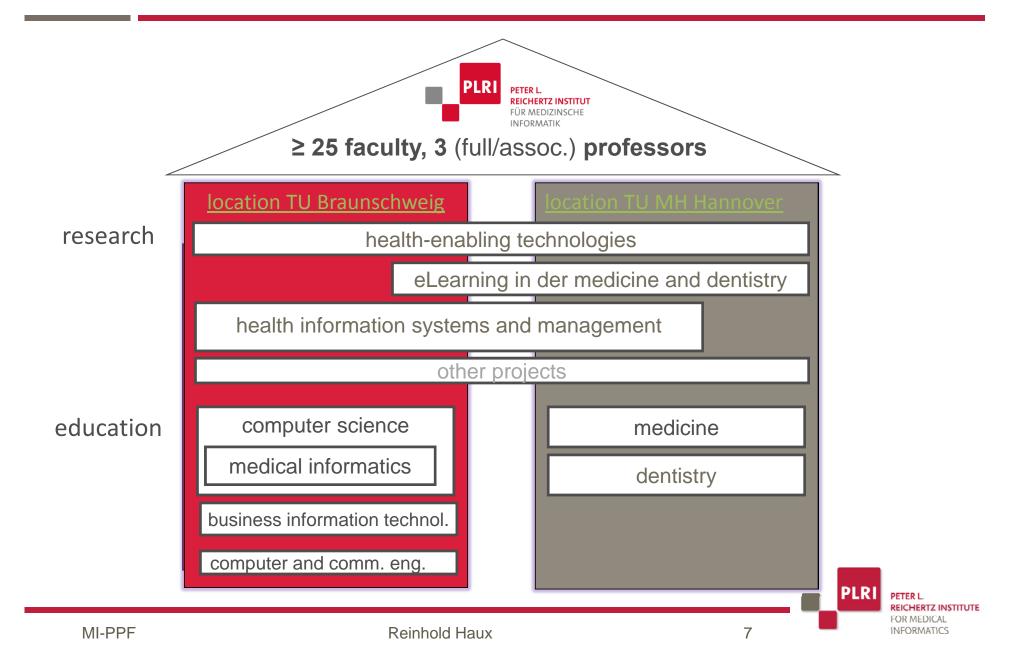


PLRI – Peter L. Reichertz Institute for Med. Informatics





PLRI – Peter L. Reichertz Institute for Med. Informatics



medical informatics

- What are important future research fields for medical informatics?
- ... and so to reflect about medical informatics as a discipline
- dedicated to IMIA (and so to you);
 it is a 'gift' which you may (or may not) like
- biomedical, health, medical, ... informatics?



medical informatics

- What are important original and relevant future research fields for medical informatics?
- ... and so to reflect about medical informatics as a discipline
- dedicated to IMIA (and so to you);
 it is a 'gift' which you may (or may not) like
- biomedical, health, medical, ... informatics?



medical informatics – past

some (few) milestones of the past

50 years ago: Ledley/Lusted, dec.-supp.

25 years ago:

Jan van Bemmel: structure of our field, ...

Peter Reichertz: HIS and research, ...

Edward Shortliffe: research methodology, ...

Jos Willems et al.: ECG-database, ...

• 10 years ago:

Reed Gardner et al.: 20 yearsHELP IMIA recommendations on education



Hospital Information Systems - Past, Present, Future -1

Peter L. Reichertz
Institut für Medizinische Informatik
Medizinische Hochschule Hannover

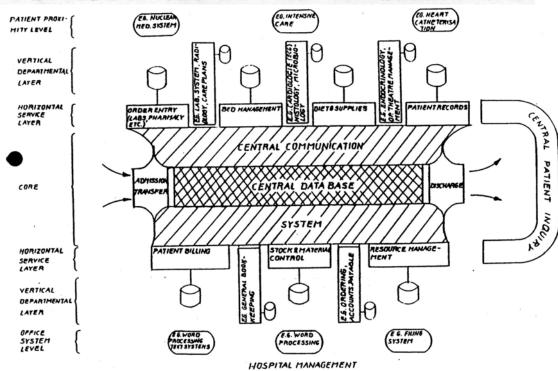


Figure 5: Conceptional model of hospital information systems

3.1 THE CORE OF HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The center of information systems and the levels, as they developed both in pioneer installations and in the gradually evolving industrial software, is a central data structure and a means for communication. The patient 'enters' the system through the admission,





Hospital Information Systems - Past, Present, Future -1

Peter L. Reichertz
Institut für Medizinische Informatik
Medizinische Hochschule Hannover

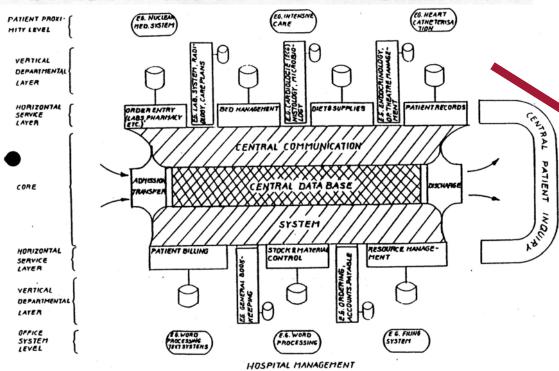


Figure 5: Conceptional model of hospital information systems

3.1 THE CORE OF HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

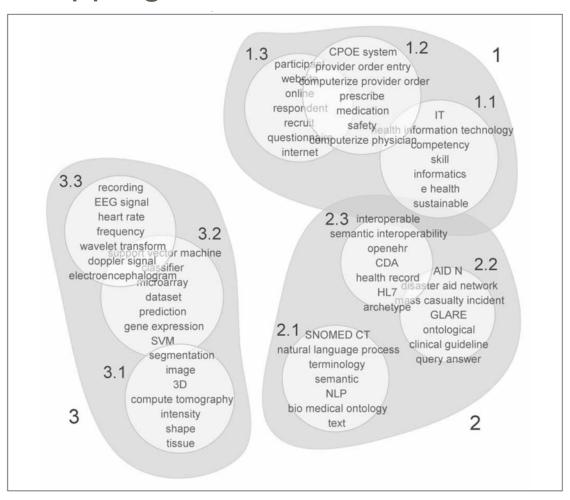
The center of information systems and the levels, as they developed both in pioneer installations and in the gradually evolving industrial software, is a central data structure and a means for communication. The patient 'enters' the system through the admission,





medical informatics - present

analyses e.g. by Schuemie, Talmon et al. Mapping the domain of medical informatics.





medical informatics – present

- their summary: current medical informatics research concentrates on
 - the organization, application, and evaluation of health information systems
 - medical knowledge representation
 - signal and data analysis



- What are important original and relevant future research fields for medical informatics?
- always consider
 - the aims of medical informatics
 - ... and its driving forces (progress in inf. proc. methodolology / ICT, medicine / health sc., society)
- two views to present the suggested research fields (details in the IJMI paper)



other references (excerpt)

- Blum B (ed). A framework for medical information science. Med Inform. 1984
- Sittig DF. Grand challenges in medical informatics? JAMIA 1994
- Altman RB. Informatics ...: ten notable challenges. West J Med. 1997
- Haux R. Aims and tasks of medical informatics. IJMI 1997
- Greenes RA, Lorenzi NM. Audacious goals for ...informatics JAMIA 1994
- Kay S. Health informatics: challenges to progress. Methods Inf Med. 1999
- Lindberg DAB. Medicine in the 21st century: global problems, global solutions.
 Methods Inf Med. 2002.
- van Bemmel JH, Musen MA (eds). Challenges for medical informatics as an academic discipline. Methods Inf Med. 2002
- Knaup P, Dickhaus H (eds). Perspectives of medical informatics. Methods Inf Med. 2009



- research fields are grouped in medical informatics contributing to
 - good medicine and good health for the individual
 - good medical and health knowledge
 - well-organized health care



- research fields are grouped in medical informatics contributing to
 - good medicine and good health for the individual
 - good medical and health knowledge
 - well-organized health care
- MI / research fields with the aim to contribute
 - to progress in the sciences
 - to high-quality, efficient health care, and to quality of life



medical informatics – future – view 1 (1/3)

good medicine and good health for the individual

- 1) comprehensive electronic patient/health records combined with appropriate concepts for representing, accessing and visualizing health data
- 2) computer-enhanced decision support combined with appropriate concepts for reasoning and knowledge representation
- 3) comprehensive measurement and visualization of the human body
- 4) formal models for better understanding the functions or workings of the human body



medical informatics – future – view 1 (2/3)

good medical and health knowledge

- 5) comprehensive, easily accessible medical / health care knowledge bases
- 6) data mining and analysis for health reporting, health consulting and for identifying new medical knowledge
- 7) controlled medical vocabularies and their relation to models of health and disease



medical informatics – future – view 1 (3/3)

well-organized health care

- 8) effective architectures of HIS for patient-centered (not institution-centered) care and appropriate information management methods
- with all these research fields being related to
- 9) understanding nature, properties and management of information in biological structures as well as in health care organizations
- 10)demonstration of effectiveness through evaluation studies



medical informatics – future – view 2 (1/6)

having in mind that today and in the near future

- a) health has to be considered as integral part of life (not as disease episode(s))
- b) medical informatics is addressing both, health professionals *and* individuals/consumers
- c) the individual, is at the center of medical informatics research even though it can range in scale from molecules to populations
- d) research, education and practice may shift more and more from local to global activities the research fields can be structured into 16 groups



medical informatics – future – view 2 (2/6)

good medicine and good health for the individual

- 1) seamless interactivity with automated data capture and storage for patient care and beyond from perception to high-level semantic concepts, related to H-H, M-M, H-M interaction; not restricted to episodes
- 2) knowledge-based decision-support for diagnosis and therapy and beyond decision-support in its broadest meaning, context-aware, individualized
- 3) patient-centered data analysis and mining with representations of patient data based on appropriate semantic concepts



medical informatics – future – view 2 (3/6)

good medicine and good health for the individual

- 4) informatics diagnostics informatics tools form major part of the diagnostic entity
- 5) informatics therapeutics informatics tools form major part of the therapeutic entity
- 6) informatics capability-enhancing extensions both mental and physical implanted, immersive or external assistants providing a person with extended memories, senses, and connectivity



medical informatics – future – view 2 (4/6)

good medical and health knowledge

- 7) systematization of medical/health knowledge with formal representation, automated knowledge collection, beyond languages
- 8) analysis of medical and health knowledge incl. knowledge generation, quality assessing & certifying
- 9) identifying new disease patterns e.g. through pervasively measured sensor data, combined with molecular and clinical knowledge
- 10)modelling the virtual human more 'in vitro experiments' through simulation



medical informatics – future – view 2 (5/6)

well-organized health care

- 11)elaborating concepts for appropriate health data bank architectures and for its organizations allowing a range of local to global offerings for storing and maintaining personal health data
- 12)elaborating concepts for patient-centered health information system architectures within and beyond health care institutions and its information management strategies considering data from ambient environments
- 13)automated, individualized health advice and education



medical informatics – future – view 2 (6/6)

with all these research fields being related to

- 14) analysing, creating and/or extending theories, concepts, and methods
- 15)systematic evaluation, from 'phase 1' lab experiments to 'phase 4' field tests
- 16) establishing and exploring the use of 'living labs'



- consequences? significantly, not only for medical informatics (details in IJMI paper)
- boundaries between disciplines may shift and as every discipline, medical informatics needs to be successful in the competition of sciences



- consequences? significantly, not only for medical informatics (details in IJMI paper)
- boundaries between disciplines may shift and as every discipline, medical informatics needs to be successful in the competition of sciences
- my personal summary:
 - medical informatics is an attractive discipline
 - IMIA plays an important role



29

- consequences? significantly, not only for medical informatics (details in IJMI paper)
- boundaries between disciplines may shift and as every discipline, medical informatics needs to be successful in the competition of sciences
- my personal summary:
 - medical informatics is an attractive discipline
 - IMIA plays an important role
- thanks to all who contributed



- consequences? significantly, not only for medical informatics (details in IJMI paper)
- boundaries between disciplines may shift and as every discipline, medical informatics needs to be successful in the competition of sciences
- my personal summary:
 - medical informatics is an attractive discipline
 - IMIA plays an important role
- thanks to all who contributed
- and keep in mind: "life punishes those who delay" [Mikhail Gorbachev, 1989]

discussion?

Many things have to be done and can be done, just let not sit back and let them happen by themselves. Don't let us only react to events which induce a change, let us actively prepare for a meaningful evolution.

Reichertz PL. Preparing for change: Concepts and education in medical informatics. Comput Methods Programs Biomed. 1987.



Peter L. Reichertz Institute for Medical Informatics University of Braunschweig and Hannover Medical School

Mühlenpfordtstraße 23 D-38106 Braunschweig, Germany

Tel.: +49 (0) 531 391-9500 Fax: +49 (0) 531 391-9502

www.plri.de



