



Spring Symposium

Integration or Disruption? Implementing SmartHEALTH into Healthcare

18th - 19th May 2009, Newcastle, UK

The SmartHEALTH Integrated Project is developing the next generation of smart diagnostic systems fully integrated into healthcare systems in Europe. Driven by key applications in cancer diagnostics, SmartHEALTH will enable enhanced medical diagnosis leading to earlier and more precise results and thus contributing to an increased quality of life.

The Policy Ethics and Life Sciences Research Centre (PEALS) in collaboration with the SmartHealth Consortium have been exploring the social and ethical implications of the integration of these technologies.

As part of this exploration a symposium of invited experts and stakeholders will be held at Citygate, Newcastle University from 18th to 19th May 2009. Participants will include invited members from the SmartHEALTH consortium together with a number of invited international experts from healthcare, social science, ethics, and informatics. The symposium is a joint collaboration between PEALS and the University of Trento Italy.

Aim of symposium

The aim of the symposium is to provide a forum for open discussion around the ethical and social (ELSI) issues relevant to the SmartHEALTH programme and will address both the direct implications of these complex converging technologies as well as the challenges of integrating these into different healthcare systems within different European countries. The symposium will focus on the SmartHEALTH roadmap within the context of Breast Cancer and Colorectal Cancer; with a particular emphasis on:

- The future of breast cancer monitoring: from hospitals to GP surgeries to patients' homes.
- Colorectal cancer screening and monitoring within the SmartHEALTH vision.

Participants will include SmartHEALTH partners and independent external experts including clinicians, social scientists, psycho-social researchers, ethicists and stakeholders with a patient perspective.

Discussions during the symposium will seek to:

- clarify the nature of the specific ethical and social issues associated with integrated biodiagnostic systems.
- create an open platform for a cross-disciplinary discussion
- explore possible responses to ELSIs raised by participants
- collate outcomes of the symposium and incorporate into a final report to the EC.
- disseminate relevant findings within the consortium and more widely.

For all enquiries please contact:

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