

EANS Winter e-Summit 2022, Feb 21

„The contribution of Nursing Science to eHealth“

Organised: Saima Hinno, Tartu, Estonia



Reflections by Gabriele Meyer, EANS president

This year, EANS Winter e-Summit was a rich day with many impulses. Speakers, presenters and facilitators from 14 countries took part.

At 2:30 pm, more than 180 check-ins from 25 countries, including the USA and Ghana, were registered.

After some initial problems with the internet connection, which were due to breakdowns of the net in Estonia as well as Belgium, the online event faced more or less just minor technical problems. We all know that unforeseen problems can come up in online meetings and after two years of pandemic we have learnt to be patient.

We started with the **EANS Best Paper Award** presentation by Joeri Vandewalle.

The first keynote was given by Professor Procter from the UK: She asked whether we really carried out the digital transformation? The transfer from traditional paper-based systems to digital techniques might not have solved the complexity. Professor Procter reminded us that patient safety should be the focus of all considerations concerning digital technologies. Patients should have control over their health data, deciding whom to give access and where data are transferred to.

The round table followed: Excellent, well-prepared discussants from Cyprus, Finland, Estonia and Germany exchanged their thoughts about the integration of nurses in technological development.

To repeat just a few sentences: Nurses are too reluctant to talk about how devices should be developed. Joint education programmes for nurses and engineers are needed or at least internships for ICT experts in nursing settings.

Towards the end of the round table, the MRC framework was discussed as a guiding framework for the development and evaluation of nursing technology. And it was mentioned that it is not enough for nurses and engineers to be in discussion, but that we actually need to develop the whole value chain including marketing and implementation science.

The second keynote was prerecorded by Prof. Rahmani, University of California: He emphasized that future healthcare needs personalised approaches to empower personal health. He showed us examples: Personicle and ZotCare, and the multimedia Food Logger. We also learned about interactive event mining.

Prof. Rahmani went more deeply into two projects: 1) Personal Mental Health Navigation: a cybernetic goal-based system; 2) a platform for individualised pregnancy care.

The third keynote was given by Heike Felzmann, National University Galway, Ireland: She emphasized the embedded values in technologies. Her talk was about wearable robots in nursing, such as exoskeletons for patients and nurses. She opened a broad field of research interests: how users might experience the sense of control and responsibility in wearable robots, how they balance the risks and benefits, how wearable robot users are perceived, the impact on caregiving, e.g. if care workers and care recipients trust wearable robots as an element of care. Further aspects were: social justice, resources and access: Who can access, who is excluded? What about data protection and privacy and accountability and responsibility?

After the tea break, we listened to six **poster presentations** and a seventh was presented as a silent slide show.

In the **second round table**, outstanding experts from four countries discussed the ethics of technology solutions. Here are some of the important statements:

How do we control the digital solutions so that they do more good than harm? Care and technology are always integrated. How do we deal with the environmental impact of technology? Technology use needs continuous critical reflection. We learnt about controversies between regulations of research ethics and protection of personal data and about the “missing person concept” and “individuals as individuals”, the “missing human face”.

The Summit on February 21, 2022, taught us how broad the discussion about the contribution of nursing science to e-health is and how open we are towards digital solutions, how engaged through research projects and how deep our reflections are.

A warm and special thank-you to Saima Hinno and her team for organizing this meeting. Applause!