



TRACK 16: Back to the Future in Healthcare Organization and Management

Track chair:

S. Robert Hernandez, Dr.P.H.
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama
hernande@uab.edu
205/934-1665

Co-organizers:

Richard Shewchuk
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama
E-mail: shewchuk@uab.edu
Phone: 205/934-4061

Stefano Calciolari
University of Lugano – Switzerland
E-mail: stefano.calciolari@usi.ch
Phone: +41 (0)58 6664822
Fax: +41 (0)58 6664733

Stefan Kunz
University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland – Switzerland
E-mail: stefan.kunz@hefr.ch
Phone: +41 (0)26 4296043
Fax: +41 (0)26 4296010

Sabina Nuti
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa - Italy
E-mail: sabina.nuti@sssupsup.it
Phone: +39 050883871
Fax: +39 050883890

Abstract

Countries are struggling to meet the healthcare needs of their populations. The approaches taken vary from “free market” competitive models prevalent in the United States to government planned healthcare. Every approach to service delivery faces difficult times as economic declines force governments to adopt stringent budget cuts because of tax shortfalls and businesses reduce health insurance coverage for employees as a cost saving measure. Problems of corruption of healthcare corporations in North America or malfeasance of public health officials in Europe contribute to the severity of these problems.

To resolve healthcare delivery problems, a number of topics might be addressed such as concern for critical outcomes including patient safety and satisfaction. Another topic involves workforce issues including quality of work life and employee satisfaction as countries experience shortages of professionals needed to provide services and the availability of an adequate workforce becomes crucial. A third topic is evidence-based management. Just as healthcare professionals are emphasizing evidence-based medicine, so should management researchers demonstrate application of the best evidence in organizational decision-making. A fourth topic precipitated by the world wide recession involves reasonable approaches for the reallocation of services as healthcare organizations downsize because of budget reductions and declining revenue. Finally, systems approaches that consider multiple factors impinging on healthcare delivery efficiencies are sought as changes in one area result in other unanticipated changes.

This track welcomes papers which describe efforts to address these complex issues. Analyses could assess newly designed organizational practices, the institutional context of multilevel governmental systems involved in healthcare service delivery, alternative governance systems, organizational and work redesign, emergent patterns of action and clinical pathways, and the positive as well as harmful effects of these actions. Submissions can cover a wide variety of methods and research designs, including single case studies, conceptual papers, and large-scale empirical studies.