

# Strategic seminar: eHealth for Safety



Prof. James Goldberg addressed the significant concerns of patient safety and knowledge in the realms of eHealth implementation. "Each patient must be informed, give his consent, and must understand the realities of his treatment," noted Goldberg.

**The considerable issues of patient privacy and safety were addressed in Wednesday's seminar eHealth for Safety: Benefits of ICT for Patient Safety. Emphasis was put on the role of ICT's in support of patient safety and the benefits of electronic health records.**

The conference noted that electronic health records would greatly favor health on all levels, from doctor to patient communication, to implementing new discoveries and research in the field in a more adequate, immediate manner.

While the benefits of electronic health records are paramount, the issue of patient privacy has become a central concern. According

to Prof. James Goldberg of the University of Nice and the Faculty of Medicine, France, the challenges facing eHealth in terms of privacy need to be addressed by the diverse medical systems that share medical information on patients. "These systems need to agree on what are the best ways to define privacy and what are the best ways to make sure that the patient is involved in the definition of privacy and security."

## Frequent errors

Also discussed were some of the key factors in the frequent errors of the health network spectrum. While indiscriminate ICT tools and extensive research and information on them is available, there

is far less knowledge at hand to identify the nature of medical errors or quantify their frequency or clinical impact. Miscommunication among the medical spectrum, uninformed patients, and inaccurate or incomplete medical records were identified as key factors in the frequent medical errors.

The brief discussion that followed noted that the crises of privacy and safety were an issue because people are, incidentally, at odds with each other, and a universal understanding of eHealth and its benefits and effects is still not fully comprehended by everyone it seeks to reach.

TEXT: DAKOTA TRACHT  
PHOTOS: JOSÉ ORTEGA