

Preface

Welcome to MedNet 2005

MedNet 2005 is an international meeting aimed at bringing together researchers, developers and users involved in the application of the Internet in medicine, starting either with a medical or technological background. It is organized by the Society for the Internet in Medicine, an international scientific association devoted to promote the education of the public and of the medical community in the applications of the Internet and related technologies in the fields of the medical sciences, healthcare practice and management.

After the successful editions of MedNet in Brighton, UK (1996 and 1997), London, UK (1998), Heidelberg, Germany (1999), Brussels, Belgium (2000), Udine, Italy (2001), Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2002) and Geneva, Switzerland (2003) and Buenos Aires, Argentina (2004) this year's congress will take place in the beautiful old city of Prague.

This year the MedNet congress has four tracks, of which every track has its own motto:

1. *Internet for Informaticians and Clinicians – “Towards the new web technologies”*
 - Shared information in patient care and follow up
 - Healthcare quality and standards
 - Internet in health management and administration
2. *Internet for Teachers – “Towards effective use of new e-learning tools”*
 - Knowledge maps – the modern ways of lectures preparation
 - Practical experiences with virtual medical schools
 - Internet in continuing medical education
3. *Internet for Librarians – “Towards the new roles of medical libraries”*
 - Web mediated evidence based information and multicentre medical research
 - E-publishing – the problems and special questions
 - The evidence of national web resources and Information retrieval technology
4. *Internet for Web providers – “Towards the new ways in web presentation”*
 - Quality of web information for health care
 - The responsible patient online
 - Internet and developing world

These tracks, however, have smaller and bigger side-tracks and crossings and all lead to one goal: better and more effective healthcare for everybody by empowering the citizen or patient and supporting the medical professional. Or: “How can the Internet help the doctor to be a better doctor and the patient to be a better patient?”

We welcome the participants from all over the world to this 10th World Congress on the Internet in Medicine. Next to the content, the beautiful city of Prague and the great hospitality of our hosts guarantee some enjoyable days. We have confidence this congress will be a start of many new friendships and the consolidation of international collaboration in this field, which can stimulate scientific work.

Maybe even scientific work that can be presented at the 11th World Congress, MedNet 2006, in Toronto (Canada), October 13–20, 2006.

Hans van der Slikke
SIM Chair