

Message from the General Chairs

ICHI 2021



Welcome to the 9th IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics. With the global Covid-19 pandemic, this year more than ever makes it evident how important health is, and how necessary healthcare informatics is to deal with global health challenges.

After the great success of IEEE-ICHI 2020 in Oldenburg, Germany, IEEE-ICHI 2021 was originally scheduled as a physical conference in August 2021 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Unfortunately, due to the persisting pandemic, the conference turned into a virtual one. This was a challenge for everybody, the organizers, the program committee, but also the authors, and numerous other contributors. We are therefore grateful for the support and understanding and would like to thank all members of the organization committee, our student volunteers, and everyone else who helped to deal with these challenges and make IEEE-ICHI 2021 an exciting and engaging online event.

We received a considerable number of high-quality papers. The review process was very competitive. Many highly skilled and independent experts reviewed and analyzed received submissions. Due to time and space limitations, and to the online delivery of the conference, we could only choose a small number of the submitted papers to be accepted, and the program committees selected the very top ones.

According to its tradition, IEEE-ICHI 2021 features three major tracks: Analytics, Human Factors, and Systems. Received submissions for these three major tracks count to 67, 18, 21, respectively: accepted papers count to 26, 6, and 7, respectively, with an acceptance rate close to 36% for the three major tracks.

Beyond the three major tracks, IEEE-ICHI 2021 also hosts other tracks: posters and demo; industry; CoViD-19 challenge; doctoral consortium.

We are now happy to present more than 85 exciting contributions, out of the 173 overall received submissions.

This year, once again and not surprisingly, there is a strong focus on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning methods. However, we also see that healthcare informatics is not just about data, but also needs good and working systems, and must understand the human's role. IEEE-ICHI's unique approach with an Analytics, a Human Factors, and a Systems track, therefore, facilitates the broader view on healthcare informatics that is necessary for successful deployment of informatics in real life.

Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, IEEE-ICHI 2021 has remained an attractive and highly competitive venue for disseminating and discussing impactful research, indicating that IEEE-ICHI has become an integral part of the international healthcare informatics community.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The task of organizing the 9th IEEE-ICHI International Conference on Healthcare Informatics could not have been performed without the valuable help of many people, who made all of their best effort in contributing to the success of the conference, dealing with unprecedented circumstances of a global pandemic: the members of the organizing committee and the scientific program committee; professor Yumin Cheung, chair of the IEEE Technical Committee of Intelligent Informatics (TCII); the authors; the volunteers; Michelle Ocampo, Alisson Mohn, Cristina Ceballos, Dawid Kedzierski, Laura Perry, Kathy Burke, Melinda Stembridge, Steve Woods, Tara Carsey from IEEE; and the members of the ICHI Steering Committee, chaired by Christopher Yang.

The general chairs express their deep gratitude to all of these wonderful people.

We hope that you will enjoy IEEE-ICHI 2021!

Giuseppe Pozzi, *Politecnico di Milano, Milano, Italy*

Jens Weber, *University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*

IEEE-ICHI 2021 General Chairs