

## Call for participation: global initiative on mobile health support for maternal screening and community genetics (January 2017)



Recent studies from the World Health Organization Human Genetics Group (WHO/HGG), and Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR), show the occurrence of congenital disorders and genetic diseases in a population, with its share of ill health, suffering and premature death, prompts the need for actions and services to treat the affected and prevent the occurrence of these conditions in the community. Interventions aimed at the early detection, prevention and care of health problems caused by genetic factors have been implemented in high-income countries. These developments have been facilitated by new or improved diagnostic technologies.

In contrast, low- and middle-income countries (LMIC's) have been behind in their implementation of public policies for the care and prevention of congenital and genetic disorders. WHO/HGG has suggested that availability of community genetics services in LMIC is less than adequate. From the perspective of WHO, it would be desirable to start by supporting the development of community genetics services in selected countries as demonstration projects.

Recognizing the potential role of mobile health (mHealth) to support genetic screening and health care, the ISfTeH Mobile Health Working Group, in collaboration with the New York Institute of Technology/College of Osteopathic Medicine, is creating the Global Initiative on Mobile Health Support for Maternal Screening and Community Genetics.

Participating members will serve as a research resource and clearinghouse for information on mHealth and eHealth applications which can be used for maternal screening and community genetics, especially in underserved healthcare areas.

Following WHO priorities and recommendations, this includes support for ongoing efforts to build evidence-based guidance on the use of mobile technologies, in order to advance integrated person-centered health services and universal health coverage.

The Initiative will be coordinated by ISfTeH member and mHealth Working Group coordinator Dr. Daniel Lorence. Feel free to contact him at [dlorenc@nyit.edu](mailto:dlorenc@nyit.edu) to join or contribute to the WG activities. Or contact the ISfTeH Executive Secretariat ([info@isfteh.org](mailto:info@isfteh.org)) for more details.