

Preface

This volume features selected and peer-reviewed contributions from the International Conference on Health Care Systems Engineering (HCSE). This conference provides an opportunity to discuss operations management issues in health care delivery systems. The emphasis is on quantitative methods for the analysis, design and management of health care systems.

The participants are faculties, students and medical doctors from several disciplines. The main objective is fostering the collaboration between operations management scientists and clinicians.

Scientists and practitioners have the opportunity to discuss about new ideas, methods and technologies for improving the operation of health care organizations. The event emphasizes the research in the field of health care systems engineering developed in close collaboration with clinicians.

The conference took place in Milan, Italy, between the 22nd and the 24th of May 2013 in the San Raffaele Hospital. A limited number of papers was selected under a double-blind review process. I would like to thank all of the Scientific Committee and the 43 anonymous reviewers for the selection of the works. In total, 24 papers are included in the conference proceedings. Each paper was presented at the conference and discussed with experts from the clinical field.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to our invited speakers, Dr. Gianlorenzo Scaccabarozzi for agreeing to address the conference on the “Emerging Needs and Future Perspectives of Italian Home Care Providers”, and Prof. Xiaolan Xie with the topic of “Mathematical Modeling of Healthcare Engineering Problems”. Their contributions are perfectly in line with the aim of the conference which tries to show the two facets of the same game: problems and related solutions.

I would like to thank all the speakers, authors and discussants of the papers together their accompanying persons for their participation to HCSE.

I gratefully acknowledge the Organizing Committee: Riccardo Dodi, Nicola Frigerio, Ettore Lanzarone, Elettra Oleari, Giulia Pedrielli, Alberto Sanna and Semih Yalcindag.

My hope is that this conference will serve as a forum for researchers, academics and clinicians in the broad area of health care systems engineering to discuss their most recent research findings and to provide them with opportunities for technology transfer.

Milan, Italy

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<http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-01847-8>

Proceedings of the International Conference on Health
Care Systems Engineering

Matta, A.; Li, J.; Sahin, E.; Lanzarone, E.; Fowler, J. (Eds.)

2014, IX, 315 p. 61 illus., 39 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-01847-8