

[SE05-MED]

Bright Spots: Innovations for Quality, Reliability or Safety of Medical Technologies

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Brief Bio
Session Leader(s)

Kate Michi Ettinger, Senior Fellow, Center for Health Professions, UCSF, is a social innovation consultant, product designer and health care ethicist with over fifteen years of health-related experience in private, government, academic, non-profit sectors. At the catalyst at OpenQRS, Kate currently focuses on how to harness new technologies, such as sensors, wireless, mobile – to make it easy, effective and affordable to monitor data on quality, reliability and safety for medical devices deployed anywhere in the world.

Abstract
Short description, including alignment with conference themes and objectives

Medical technologies deployed in low and middle income countries (LMIC) often encounter a lack of clear guidelines for how to address quality, reliability and/or safety (QRS). In this regulatory absence, innovators have stepped up to develop creative QRS solutions for medical technologies.

Strategies to solve these thorny problems may include:

- a) technical solutions, such as quality assurance tests for field diagnostics,
- b) hybrid technology and capacity building approaches, such as sms feedback loops with health care workers,
- c) systemic solutions, such as allocating funds for adverse outcomes,
- d) trust building solutions, such as transparent communications about outcomes, or
- e) design solutions that reimagine existing technology to make it appropriate to the LMIC context while concurrently addressing the QRS of this appropriate technology

This session invites papers that share the impact of approaches to address the QRS of a medical technology. Papers will present the QRS problem identified, the solution developed to address the QRS issue, the impact of the solution and insights from the intervention. The session encourages papers to include barriers encountered, unexpected findings and failures.

Description
Proposed discussion focus

This panel will introduce a simple format for practitioners, academics, funders or policy advisors to report medical technology QRS innovations. Papers in this panel will briefly present the underlying medical technology, then focus on the QRS problem they identified, the method they developed to address the QRS issue, and the impact of their solution. The papers and discussion will emphasize unexpected findings, failures and insights from the intervention.

Drawing on a range of actors—entrepreneurs to funders- and varied strategies for solutions – technical to systemic, the panel will highlight the diverse ways that med tech product makers demonstrate innovation to improve quality and safety. This discussion aims to be practical driven by tangible solutions and focused on realistic issues. In 2014 Tech4Dev surfaced a theme that the regulatory scheme for the Global South is not working, this panel will foster meaningful discussion around concrete solutions that “model” a way forward from the impasse.

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Objectives

Justification and expected impact during and after the conference

By highlighting different methods from capacity building approaches to technical inventions and featuring efforts from the Global South as well as funders, this panel will promote a discussion that identifies “role models” for developing med tech with integrity.

The objective is three fold:

- 1) To catalyze a peer to peer learning community that can serve to accelerate the adoption of QRS measures into new products for LMIC
- 2) To feature innovative efforts that can serve as “role model” practices and to seed examples that may prove to be leapfrogging approach to QRS issues.
- 3) To map QRS solutions submitted for this panel in order to inspire people to build integrity into the design of their ech4dev products.

Target Audience

This panel is intended for policy advisors, practitioners, funders and academics, with an interest in quality and safety of medical technologies.