

Guest Editorial: New Perspectives on Technology and Innovation Management to Strengthen the Development of Healthcare Organizations and Ecosystems

RECENTLY, healthcare organizations have continually put tremendous efforts to raise medical treatment standard as well as improve customer satisfaction and strengthen their business competence. The underlying reasons generally depends on the inadequate planning, inappropriate procurement, poorly organized and managed healthcare technical services, and a shortage of skilled personnel. Moreover, the mismanagement of physical assets impacts on the quality, efficiency, and sustainability of health services at all levels.

In modern healthcare, healthcare technology has a major role to play in order. Technology and innovation have become a vital component to drive the continual changes and to serve the objective of high-standard healthcare provision. Not only do healthcare organizations heavily rely on medical technologies, such as robotic surgery, CT scan, 3-D organ printing and precision medicine but also supporting technologies, such as health information system and healthcare ERP, have played an important role in facilitating organizational workflow and processes. In addition, most diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitation activities are based on the extensive use of medical technologies. The management tools to make strategic decisions depend on the quality of information. By investing in those technologies, healthcare organizations are inevitably pressured by higher cost of services.

For example from the cost perspective, Internet-enabled services are continuously developed to support virtual care like telemedicine allowing healthcare providers to consult with patients virtually and provide diagnoses. Therefore, time and resources associated in an in-person hospital consult can be saved.

Despite that healthcare executives are trying to manage the rising cost of healthcare services, they are also facing the issues related to privacy, cybersecurity threats, mounting medical records, as well as the long-standing issues from internal organizations, such as change resistance and technology adoption. Therefore, to strengthen the development of healthcare organizations and ecosystems for the next decade, new perspectives on technology and innovation management are required.

Here are few examples of recent research works aiming to address the abovementioned challenges. Hsieh et al. [8] used the

protection motivation theory and unified theory of acceptance to identify key factors of personal health record (PHR) adoption. Kharrazi et al. [10] conducted research aiming to forecast U.S. hospitals' electronic health record (EHR) technology adoption using Bass model. Alanazi and Al Anazi [1] explored the challenges of a patient's PHR technology adoption in healthcare, and they found that a poor integration between the PHR and EHR systems, user inexperience, and computer and health illiteracy are the key barriers of technology adoption. Glover et al. [7] studied how to improve quality of care through both technical and human components of integration.

Kochan et al. [11] conducted research on the uses of cloud computing to improve the hospital supply chain (SC) performance by applying system dynamics and simulation. Gao and Sunyaev [4] attempted to identify the industry-specific factors of cloud computing adoption in healthcare.

Gholamhosseini and Ayatollahi [6] attempted to design e-health readiness assessment tool for hospital. Glover et al. [7] surveyed online healthcare community users to understand their behaviors in seeking health-related information. Van Velthoven et al. [18] studied on how digitization affects healthcare organizations, whereas Laurenza et al. [12] conducted a case study to understand the effect of digital technologies adoption for healthcare industry. Faggini et al. [3] studied how the digital platform being an enabler between patients and physicians create sustainability for healthcare. Pantzartzis et al. [14] tried to build the technology roadmap layer and process to improve the resilience and sustainability of health and social care facilities in U.K.

Schultz et al. [17] conducted an empirical study in order to understand and manage innovation for eldercare due to demographic shifts around the world. Glover et al. [7] studied the effect of innovation leadership and SC innovation on SC efficiency in hospitals using the structural equation modeling technique.

Iyawa et al. [9] tried to explore the existing body of knowledge of digital health innovation ecosystems. Gerdri et al. [5] conducted the bibliometric analysis to identify the active research areas and discover the professional communities along with their social networks in the emerging field of biomedical engineering in Thailand. Wu et al. [20] studied the ecosystem of healthcare services in China by aiming to understand and find ways to manage stakeholders.

Punnakitikashem et al. [15], [16] developed the stochastic programming model and algorithm to facilitate decision making of nurse managers in medical–surgical units in hospitals in nurse rescheduling and nurse assignment. RFID technology with data mining technique helped to predict the time nurse spent with patients. Baker et al. [2] reported positive results of the prototype testing of the optimization model of nurse assignment computerized program.

The current health context based on new technologies demands working with an updated model of management and organization, which requires a reengineering perspective to achieve appropriate levels of clinical effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and quality. However, planning and management of healthcare technology is complex and diverse. It requires combined knowledge, which includes engineering, commercial, logistics and planning, and management skills.

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