ACM MedCOMM'12 Chair's Welcome

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the *2012 ACM Workshop on Medical Communication Systems – MedCOMM 2012*. This goal of MedCOMM is to introduce SIGCOMM researchers to challenging open research problems in medical communication systems and to spark ideas for wireless communication, software radios, and networking.

There is an increasing trend toward the convergence of wireless communication, Internet connectivity, and medicine. Devices with advanced computer communication range from body-worn health monitors to implantable medical devices to remote robotic medical devices in the battlefield. A growing list of such devices includes artificial vision, brain-computer interfaces for prosthetics, cardiac monitors, defibrillators, digital mammography, glucose monitors, infusion pumps, insulin pumps, neurostimulators, pacemakers, radiological electronic picture archiving and communication systems, and smart stents. All these systems depend on the safe, effective, reliable, and secure communication and computer networking. Advanced research on medical communication systems will help innovators of next-generation medical technologies that aim to improve public health in the digital age.

The program includes eight invited talks and two workshop papers. Our distinguished speakers are leaders in their respective fields ranging from electromagnetic interference to biomedical engineering.

I would first like to thank Dina Katabi and Jitu Padhye for their dedicated service as workshop coordinators. Andres Molina-Markham and Wendy Cooper deserve thanks for helping with the submissions system and planning. I must also thank my colleagues at Aalto University and the University of Helsinki who "volunteered" to help with the organization, Liang Wang, Joe Touch, Jussi Kangasharju, Jukka Manner, the ACM staff, and the ACM-Sheridan Proceedings Service.

Putting together *MedCOMM'12* was challenging given the interdisciplinary nature of the emerging research area. I thank the authors for submitting papers. I thank the program committee members who volunteered to review papers and provide feedback to authors. Finally, I thank Aalto University, the University of Helsinki, Nokia, ACM SIGCOMM, our corporate supporters, and the U.S. National Science Foundation for making MedCOMM possible.

I hope that you will discover interesting research problems by attending MedCOMM. May your research innovations in medical communication systems inspire technology for evidence-based, improved public health.

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