

Inaugural Class of IAHSI – 2017



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My health informatics career can be divided into two phases – first as a research fellow working on national health informatics initiatives at Korean Institute of Health and Social Affairs and second as a professor at Seoul National University.

My first career phase started as a research fellow working on nation-wide informatics projects such as the Health Center Information Systems and the Emergency Information Network Systems in the late 80s and early 90s at the Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs. I began to recognize importance of achieving semantic interoperability for national health information exchange out of these projects.

My second career phase started when I moved into academia as a professor at College of Nursing, Seoul National University. My most outstanding contribution as an educator since I joined the academia was introduction of health informatic to nursing education and nursing practice in Korea. As a nurse educator, I was the first to offer short courses on the use of ICT in nursing as a part of the continuing education programs of the Korea Nurses Association in 1992. Two years later, I went on to integrate nursing informatics courses into undergraduate and graduate curriculums at the College of Nursing, Seoul National University, which led to the introduction of master's and PhD programs in nursing informatics in 2003, again the first such program in Korea. This led to introduction of Interdisciplinary Graduate Program of Medical Informatics in 2010 at Seoul National University.

As a health informaticist, I played a crucial role in implementing the first standard terminology-based electronic nursing records system in Korea in 2003. This was possible due to my work in the late 90s in standardizing nursing document forms used in Korean hospitals in collaboration with the Korean Hospital Nurses Association. More than 150 nursing forms were collected, reviewed, analyzed, and consolidated into 17 nursing forms for initial assessments, nursing care plans, referrals, and discharge summaries. Then, in the early 2000s, I analyzed nursing narrative and concepts extracted from these narratives were mapped with International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP), a standardized nursing terminology developed by International Council of Nurses. The terminology-based electronic nursing records system we developed inspired a number of similar systems in Korea and worldwide. My experience with nursing terminology, in particular the ICNP, contributed to advancement of the ICNP, development of ICNP subsets, as well as publication of the Reference Terminology Model for Nursing at the ISO/TC 215. I served on the strategic advisory group and editorial board for the ICNP more than 10 years.

My contribution to nursing and health informatics were recognized nationally and internationally not only through publications and presentations, honors and awards, but also through invitations to serve on professional committees and organizations. I authored and co-authored more than 40 book chapters and more than 250 articles on terminology and vocabulary, detailed clinical models, ontologies, use of health avatars to support self-care of consumers, and analytics of EHR and social data. Further, I made more than 250 presentations including tutorials,

workshops, and panel discussions, and invited speeches on these topics at nursing and health informatics conferences.

I am a Fellow of American Academy of Nursing, a Fellow of American College of Medical Informatics and a Fellow of the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics, and I received numerous academic awards for my academic excellence and my service at professional committees and organizations.

I had served the International Medical Informatics Association Nursing Informatics Special Interest Group (IMIA-NI) as a vice chair of from 2006 to 2012 and the chair from 2012 to 2015. My leadership in global nursing informatics community strongly influenced development of nursing informatics in neighboring countries. For example, Taiwanese NI Association was founded in 2006 and Chinese NI Group in 2012 under my guidance.

I also served IMIA as the Vice President for WG/SIGs from 2006 to 2012, the President Elect from 2012 to 2015, and the President from 2015 to 2017. As the president I initiated revision of the IMIA Strategic Plan and IMIA Code of Ethics for Health Informatics Professionals, and introduced the International Academy of Health Informatics Science.

I am an interdisciplinary leader and a strong spokeswoman for the contributions of Informatics to healthcare in multiple inter-professional organizations such as WHO and ISO, through my roles as vice-chair of WHO eHealth Task Force from 2013 to 2016 and as the country representative to the ISO/ TC 215 on health informatics from 2003 to 2006.