ACI Call for Papers: Special Section on Workflow Automation

The landscape of automation across health and non-health industries has evolved to improve value and reduce costs. Modern computing capabilities, such as big data analytics, artificial intelligence, robotics, and wearable sensors, have been adopted by many non-health care industries to successfully automate workflow. The health care industry has experienced some automation of operations and administrative workflows. However, in other domains, such as clinical decision making, patient and provider interaction, and population health, fewer workflows have experienced automation.

Expanding automation through modern computing opportunities has the potential to support more efficient health care workflows. Among the potential benefits are reductions in clinical burden and overwork of health care professionals on the job and after hours, as well as patient participation in shared decision making through streamlined access to information. Non-health sectors already supported by automation can offer insight into how to automate health care processes effectively and successfully, including identifying potential barriers and recommending strategies for stakeholder buy-in.

Topics and Scope

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is undertaking a [project](#) to propel workflow automation in healthcare through the use of modern computing. As part of this project, ONC has partnered with Applied Clinical Informatics to solicit manuscripts addressing a broad range of topics related to workflow automation to advance the use of automation in healthcare. Participants may address automation considerations and development, implementation, and evaluation of automation for different healthcare stakeholders (e.g., patients, caregivers, clinicians, public health specialists, or administrative staff), diverse workflows (e.g., self-management, treatment and care delivery, population health, surveillance and safety, analytics, or administrative and operational), and across care settings (e.g., homes, communities, ambulatory, inpatient, long-term/post-acute, allied health, or specialty services).

Potential topics for the Special Section on Workflow Automation include, but are not limited to:

- Identify opportunities for automation in health care, in both clinical and administrative areas
- Explore required instrumentation to enable workflow automation
- Explore the need for new and/or updated workflows
- Identify labor-intensive parts of health care that are right for automation
- Discuss, study, and/or address considerations for developing and implementing workflow automation in healthcare

- **Development, implementation, and/evaluation of workflow automation innovations in healthcare**

Paper Submission and Format Guidelines
Applied Clinical Informatics encourages a diverse range of submissions and demonstrations from academic, healthcare organizations, and industry that address any of the topics listed above. Manuscripts may be submitted as Research Articles, State of the Art/Best Practice Papers, Case Reports, Reviews, or Letters to the Editor. All submissions should follow the Instructions for Authors at http://www.thieme.com/media/ita/ACI_Instructions_to_Authors.pdf. Authors are requested to prefix the text "Special Section on Workflow Automation:" in front of their actual title both in the submission site (https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/acij) as well as the actual manuscript.

Special Topic Editors
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Questions
Questions about the Special Section on Workflow Automation should be sent to Teresa Zayas Cabán, PhD, at teresa.zayascaban@hhs.gov.

Schedule for the Special Section
June 1, 2021 – Submissions due

Papers will be published online as they are ready.