Subject: CFP - AMCIS 2019 Minitrack: Virtual Communities and Social Media in Health Care  
  
**Call for Papers**  
  
**2019 Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS’19)**

August 15-17, 2019

Cancun, Mexico

**Track:** Virtual Communities and Collaboration

**Minitrack:** Virtual Communities and Social Media in Health Care  
  
**Description:**Virtual environments provide new platforms for individuals to acquire and share information regarding health concerns. Virtual communities can provide an additional means for patients to provide support to one another facing similar health issues. Healthcare providers are utilizing virtual environments to connect with patients and consult with other providers, while healthcare organizations are creating new ways to manage and improve healthcare operations. Virtual environments present new channels to educate the public on various topics such as healthcare crises or managing chronic diseases. It also provides opportunities to garner information from individuals to identify emerging issues, such as flu epidemics. However, concerns also arise with leveraging virtual environments for healthcare-related purposes, such as patient privacy and information accuracy.

Hence, this minitrack seeks to explore the opportunities as well as the issues associated with virtual communities and social media in health care. We encourage paper submissions that study the development, use, and assessment of virtual communities and social media in healthcare, which can be from a variety of perspectives (e.g., patient, healthcare provider, and healthcare organization). We welcome papers that study the application of virtual communities and social media in this context as well as challenge such applications. This minitrack is open to both theoretical and empirical studies, and is open to all research methods (e.g., survey, field study, case study, experimentation).

**Possible topics** **may include (but are not limited to):**

* Development of frameworks for evaluating virtual communities and social media in healthcare
* Theoretical models describing the development, use, and assessment of virtual communities and social media in healthcare
* Research on novel, innovative uses of virtual technologies and data analytics for healthcare communities and social media
* Examinations of implementations, adoptions, and outcomes of virtual communities and social media in healthcare along with factors influencing these activities
* Meta-analyses and meta-syntheses of research and the implications for virtual communities and social media in healthcare
* Issues, limitations, and barriers surrounding virtual communities and social media in healthcare

**Important Dates:**

January 7, 2019: Manuscript Submission Website Opens

March 1, 2019 (10:00a.m. PST):   Submissions Due

More information is available at http://amcis2019.aisconferences.org/ or by contacting the minitrack co-chairs.

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