ICT innovations are rapidly emerging to support various functions in the healthcare industries with the view that ICT in healthcare has the potential to bridge inequity in healthcare access, as well as improve the effectiveness and efficiency of healthcare provisions. Underlying these ICT solutions are assumptions which are often unarticulated to healthcare stakeholders. On the whole, healthcare researchers and practitioners lack a wholistic understanding of the problems faced in the implementations of healthcare information systems (HIS). The size, complexity and integration of healthcare infrastructural components, coupled with other non-IT considerations (e.g. social, cultural, political, financial, ethical etc) means that successful implementations are rare and difficult to achieve.

Lack of research progress in this area is in part due to the lack of systematic research across multiple disciplines. Healthcare studies originated in non-IS/IT disciplines such as Public Health, Medicine, Health Informatics, Social Sciences and related areas. While technology is seen as an important driver to facilitate improvement in these disciplines, non-IS/IT researchers have often treated technology as a blackbox. Nevertheless, these prior works offer a depth of knowledge and experience through their insight of the healthcare domain. Furthermore, appropriate ICT in healthcare will have profound influence for both developed and developing countries, particularly those in remote regions which face serious shortages of qualified healthcare staff. The question is what type(s) ICT innovation is/are appropriate for a particular context. Furthermore, what is the implementation process that will lead to a successful and sustainable outcome?

This special issue will solicit high quality research papers that draw from multiple related disciplines, including IS, to address the enabling role of ICT in the healthcare domain. Papers must address the following research issues:

- The effects of ICT on disparities in healthcare: equity, efficiency and effectiveness
- Sustainability of ICT systems in healthcare organizations
- Organizational innovations of ICT use in healthcare
- Others (This includes research undertaken in interesting or unusual healthcare contexts, particularly those experiencing persistent healthcare issues. Innovative healthcare solutions which have not been previously studied would also be of great interests. Experiences of novel research approaches specifically suited to addressing these difficult issues will also be solicited.)

We welcome systematic review works that integrate the different disciplines relevant to HIS studies which would help us focus future HIS research directions as well as research methodologies in this vast area. Whilst studies with strong theoretical underpinnings will be viewed favourably, we would also welcome strong conceptual papers with potentially high theoretical and practical implications, which address important persistent problems in healthcare.

**Deadline for submission:** 31st August 2008.
Email to l.land@unsw.edu.au or s.poon@usyd.edu.au your submission in Word Format. Submissions should be no longer than 35 pages, in double spaced format. Accepted papers from PACIS 2008 will be fast tracked to this special issue. All other submissions will be peer reviewed by at least two reviewers, using a blind review process. The results of the first-round reviews will be sent to first author in mid October 2008, and resubmissions will be due by end of November 2008. The anticipated publication date of the special issue is early 2009.

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