Digital health technologies and the health of older people

Digital health technologies may contribute to solving issues caused by the ageing of the global population. However, research on real-world implementation of these technologies is still in its infancy. How can digital health technologies enhance the health status and wellbeing of older people living in a community? Is it possible to popularize the use of information and communications technology (ICT) in an aged society and late-life care settings? How should we integrate the technologies and systems to meet the specific needs of older people and different care environments? In this session, we will present 1) the validity and utility of wearable devices for enhancing the health status and wellbeing of older people living in a community, 2) the individual preferences for ICT use in care settings and implications for introducing ICT into the everyday life of older people with disabilities, 3) the current status of research on surveillance technologies for older people with and without dementia, and 4) the lessons learned from the largest smart mattress application project in Taiwan. We will also discuss the ethical issues surrounding the use of digital health technologies.