SIGHealth Newsletter

Special Interest Group in Healthcare | Association for Information Systems

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EDITOR'S NOTE

New Year Greetings from AIS SIGHealth!

As we begin 2026, thank you to every SIGHealth officer and member whose engagement keeps our community thriving. Whether through research, service, or conference participation, you make SIGHealth a valued space at the intersection of information systems and health.

Many of us connected at AMCIS 2025 in Montreal and ICIS 2025 in Nashville – great opportunities to exchange ideas and shape the road ahead.

What's new in this issue:

- Welcome to two new Board members
- The first-ever Research Spotlight – Femtech & Women's Health
- Best Paper Award recipients 2025
- Two brand-new student awards launching this year
- Key conference dates for your calendar

Help us improve! Share your preferences on content, format, and frequency: **[Survey Link]**

Want to be featured? Submit a research highlight for a future spotlight: **[Submission Form]**

As you renew your AIS membership, please remember to **re-designate SIGHealth** to continue supporting our community.

Here's to another year of collaboration and shared progress.

Warm regards,

Davinny Sou

Director of Newsletter | sighealthnewsletter@gmail.com

WELCOME – NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Alehegn Adane Kinde – Director of Webmaster

PhD student at City University of Hong Kong, focusing on explainable AI for cancer management in the African context. Passionate about value-sensitive design – leveraging IS to improve health outcomes for disadvantaged populations. Outside research, he enjoys swimming.
Contact: aaakinde2-c@my.cityu.edu.hk

Davinny Sou – Director of Newsletter

I am a PhD student at ETH Zurich and the University of St. Gallen, focusing on digital health technologies in menstrual health. My work is driven by a "people first, technology second" mindset, leveraging information systems to accelerate human potential. Outside of research, I enjoy hiking, trying new sports, and spending time outdoors.

A sincere thank-you to **Jim Ryan** for his outstanding leadership of the SIGHealth newsletter, and to **Michael Dohan** for the warm welcome and continued support.
Meet the full Board: aissighealth.com/board

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: FEMTECH & WOMEN'S HEALTH

We're excited to launch the Research Spotlight – a new recurring section that features work from our members to boost visibility, spark collaborations, and celebrate the diversity of our SIGHealth community.

This inaugural spotlight focuses on **Femtech and Women's Health**. Women's health technologies (covering menstrual health, fertility, pregnancy, menopause and beyond), specifically menstrual health tracking app, are among the most downloaded health apps worldwide. Yet they remain underexplored in Information Systems research.

Why Does This Matter for IS?

Societal Impact
500 million menstruators face period poverty worldwide.

• In some regions, only 32–66% of girls knew about menstruation before their first period (UN Women, 2024)[1].

• Period apps like Flo and Clue have surpassed 200 million downloads globally (Oxford, 2024)[2], yet stigma and low health literacy still limit care access.

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[1] https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/period-poverty-why-millions-of-girls-and-women-cannot-afford-their-periods

- 1.5 billion people lack basic sanitation, keeping girls out of school and women out of work during their period.

Organizational Relevance

45% of working women miss an average of 6 days per year due to menstrual symptoms.

- 80.7% report presenteeism – working at reduced capacity – losing an additional 9 days of productivity annually (BMJ Open, 2019).[3]
- Women with endometriosis lose up to 10.8 hours of work per week, costing ~$456/week per employee (PMC, 2024).[4]
- Japan alone estimates an $8.6 billion annual economic burden from menstrual symptoms. These hidden costs go largely unaddressed by organizations.[5]

Digital Innovation

The FemTech market is projected to grow from ~$39 billion (2025) to $97 billion by 2030.

- Women's health funding reached $2.6 billion in 2024 alone (SVB), a sharp reversal from an era when only 4% of biopharma R&D addressed female-specific conditions.
- Flo's $200M raise created Europe's first FemTech unicorn; Maven Clinic reached a $1.7B valuation serving 2,000+ corporate clients across 175 countries.[6]
- Rapid scaling raises key IS questions: adoption, data governance, algorithmic bias, privacy of sensitive health data, and the ethical design of AI-powered health tools.

As scholars of socio-technical systems, we are uniquely positioned to investigate how IS can reduce stigma, foster inclusivity, and leverage digital technologies for better health literacy, workplace equity, and (societal) well-being.

Recent Contributions from the AIS Community

- Guo, M., Liu, N., & Prester, J. (2024). **Understanding FemTech affordances: Insights from an analysis of period and fertility apps.** *ICIS 2024 Proceedings.*
- Principe, M., Stebler, D., Sou, D., Kowatsch, T., & Nißen, M. (2024). **CyMe: Personalized and seamless menstrual health tracking.** *Mensch und Computer 2024.*
- Nißen, M., Sou, D., & Kowatsch, T. (2024). **Digital female health: Advancing women-centric HCI research.** *Mensch und Computer 2024.*
- Chaput, A. C., & James, T. (2025). **FemTech: The risks of women's health self-management in a digital world.** *AMCIS 2025 TREOs.*
- Pfeiffer, J. et al. (2025). **Women in IS: A reflection on diversity and inclusion.** *Business & Information Systems Engineering, 67(4).*
- Tumescheit, C., Sou, D., et al. (2025). **Large Language Models Reveal Menstruation Experiences and Needs on Social Media.** *Studies in Health Technology and Informatics, 329.*

[2] https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2024-11-21-new-study-reveals-global-trends-menstrual-tracking-app-use
[3] https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/9/6/e026186.long
[4] https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s42506-025-00199-7
[5] https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.3111/13696998.2013.830974
[6] https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/femtech-market-report

• Sou, D., Principe, M., Kowatsch, T., & Nißen, M. (2025). **Designing stigma-mitigating digital health interventions: The case of menstrual health literacy.** *ICIS 2025 TREOs.*

BEST PAPER AWARDS 2025

SIGHealth again sponsored the Best Published Paper Awards, recognizing outstanding research in Junior Researcher, Senior Researcher, and Senior Researcher Honorable Mention categories. All awarded papers were published in 2024 by current SIGHealth members, evaluated on innovation, impact, implementation, and appeal.

Best Paper – Junior Researcher

Nikola Finze, Deinera Jechle, Stefan Faußer, and Heiko Gewald

How Are We Doing Today? Using Natural Speech Analysis to Assess Older Adults' Subjective Well-Being

Business & Information Systems Engineering, 66(3), 321–334

Best Paper – Senior Researcher

Gondy Leroy, Jennifer G. Andrews, Madison KeAlohi-Preece, Ajay Jaswani, Hyunju Song, Maureen Kelly Galindo, and Sydney A. Rice

Transparent Deep Learning to Identify Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in EHR Using Clinical Notes

Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association, 31(6), 1313–1321

Best Paper – Senior Researcher (Honorable Mention)

Yuanyuan Gao, Anqi Xu, and Paul Jen-Hwa Hu

Mining Patient-Generated Content for Medication Relations and Transition Network to Predict the Rankings and Volumes of Different Medications

Information Systems Frontiers, 27(4), 1577–1601

Congratulations to all recipients! We also thank the SIGHealth review committee for their careful evaluation of this year's submissions.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: BEST PAPER AWARDS 2026

Applications are soon open for the SIGHealth Best Paper Awards 2026. The awards recognize outstanding papers published in 2025 by current SIGHealth members, following the same Junior and Senior Researcher categories.

More details: aissighealth.com/best-paper-award

NEW STUDENT AWARDS

SIGHealth is introducing two new awards to support student engagement and research:

Student Bursary Award	Student Research Award
Covers conference registration fees for up to two students attending AMCIS or ICIS.	USD $1,000 bursary to support student research on healthcare-related IS topics.

Details on eligibility and timelines coming soon via the SIGHealth website and future newsletters.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Key dates for your 2026 calendar:

ECIS 2026 Jun 11–14, 2026	**34th European Conference on Information Systems** Milan, Italy **Theme:** *Reimagining Digital Technology for Business, Management, and Society* More details →

PACIS 2026 Jul 4–8, 2026	**30th Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems** Jakarta, Indonesia **Theme:** *Leapfrogging the Future with Artificial Intelligence* More details →

AMCIS 2026 Aug 20–22, 2026	**32nd Americas Conference on Information Systems** Reno, Nevada, USA **Theme:** *The Next Transformation* More details →

ICIS 2026 Dec 13–16, 2026	**47th International Conference on Information Systems** Lisbon, Portugal **Theme:** *Digital Collaboration and Coexistence* More details →

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

When you renew your AIS membership, remember to

re-designate SIGHealth

Membership: $10 USD/year | Check your status on the AIS website

Stay connected with SIGHealth
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