ACTION for Health Fact Sheet

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☐ Draft   ☐ Overview

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FACT SHEET

What is ACTION for Health? It is one of few research projects in Canada to study health information technology from a social perspective, examining its impact on users and their environment.

Project start and end dates: October, 2003 – March, 2008

Principal Investigator: Dr. Ellen Balka

- Professor in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University.
- Senior Research Scientist at the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation at the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute.
- Recipient of a 2007 Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Senior Scholar Career Investigator Award.

Research Funding: $3 million over four and a half years from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) under their Initiative for the New Economy (INE).

Research Focus: The role of technology in the health sector as it relates to three themes:

1) Issues arising as members of the public increasingly turn towards information technology as a means of accessing health information.
2) The impact of information technology on those working in the health sector, and the development of health indicators.
3) The legal and ethical issues associated with health information technology.

Research Goals:

- To address the design, implementation and use of health information technology in real-world settings, as well as policies governing these areas.
- To help Canadians realize the benefits of health information technology and minimize the economic and social risks associated with widespread technological change.
- To determine if health information technology meets Canadians' expectations of their healthcare system: equity, compassion, individual and collective responsibility, respect for others, effectiveness and efficiency.

Research Context:

- Information and communication technologies are regularly viewed as a more effective way to deliver health care services.
- Increasing resources are spent on health information technology.
- Few studies, to date, have addressed the impacts of health information technology on users and their environments.

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