



Proposal Suggestion:

Supporting Patient's Home-Care Supervision and Management (PATH-CASUM)

- Dr.rer.nat. **Vasileios** (Basile) **Spyropoulos**: Born in Thessaloniki, Greece, in year 1953. Professor, Medical Instrumentation Technology Department, (Biomedical Technology Lab), School of Engineering, Technological Education Institute of Athens, Greece.
- **Former Positions**: European Patent Office-Munich, Public Hospital Construction Corporation-Athens, Medical School-University of Heidelberg, CERN- Geneva.
- **Visiting Faculty**: National School of Public Administration-Athens, National School of Public Health-Athens, Medical School-University of Patras, Harvard Medical School-Boston, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, NIKHEF- Amsterdam, Technische Universitaet Ilmenau, Germany, Medical School-University of Heidelberg.

Email: basile@teiath.gr



Brussels January 30, 2006

AAL for the Ageing Society

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Suggested R & D aims for a potential “AAL for the Ageing Society” Proposal

The development of a **standardized home-computer based system** is suggested, addressing crucial aspects of the development of contemporary home – care, which should comprise of:

- ◆ *First, the employment of **low-cost, partially commercially available, devices and components**, supporting full scale home-care patient's well-being observation, including vital-signs monitoring, first responder CPR support, interactive image and sound capturing and transmission, oxygen therapy support etc.*
- ◆ *Second, appropriate **software means for the processing, the evaluation, the alerting if necessary, and the targeted transmission** of the acquired health-data.*
- ◆ *Third, **software tools for the planning, the documentation, and the resources management** of the corresponding home-care case.*

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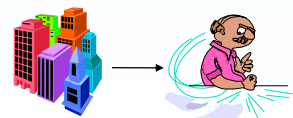
The 21st Century Hospital and modern Home-care

- We experience presently the process of the integration of **Biomedical Technology, Information Technology Systems and Medical Decision Making Procedures** in the specific professional and scientific context of the Modern Hospital.
- The 21st Century Hospital will increasingly encourage **Telemedicine supported home-care**, because of first, the increase in length of the mean life expectancy, and, second, the hospitalization cost avalanche.
- Its mission will be completed by a network of various associated Institutions, providing care rather **closer to home-care** than to that of the **traditional hospital-care**.
- Adopting Home- or quasi Home-Care Environment is a **cardinal prerequisite**, in order to ensure:
 - ◆ *A sustainable, both, economically and essentially, development of the aging population health-care.*
 - ◆ *The rehabilitation services for impaired persons.*
 - ◆ *The psychosomatic support necessary in the developed countries, during the next decades.*



Why Home-care?

- Home-care is a **cost-effective** service, not only for individuals recuperating from a hospital stay but also for those who, because of a functional or cognitive disability, are unable to take care of themselves.
- Home-care is a **human** and **compassionate** way to deliver health care and supportive services, **reinforces** and **supplements** the care provided by family members and friends, and maintains the **recipient's dignity** and **independence**, qualities that are all too often lost even in the best institutions.
- Several times, home-care allows patients to take an **active role** in their care, becoming members of a multidisciplinary health care team.
- Integrated biomedical technology and health information systems are needed, based on the fundamental premise that a **patient is in the centre** of the system.
- **Mobile home-care** logically emerges as a next step that would allow for the integration of technology, health-care information systems, and human resources, along the continuum of home-care services provided, with the patient in the centre of the network design.





The emerging challenge in Home-care

- It is argued that a qualitatively new “mobile” home-care is presently emerging out of the **combined employment** of:
 - ◆ *The modern wireless mobile telephony networks and equipment.*
 - ◆ *The contemporary digital entertainment electronics.*
 - ◆ *The commercially available computer hardware and software.*
- This new mobile home-care allows us for to be optimistic about the reduction of patients’ **unnecessary hospitalization** in the near future, as well as, the **dramatic reduction** of the home-care costs.

