

IT Volume 3 / Issue 1 - Editorial

The Word from the Organisers

On behalf of the Executive Committee and General Secretariat of the European Association of Healthcare IT Managers (HITM), I would like to congratulate the winners of the *IT @ Networking Awards 2009 (IT @ 2009)*.

As an event which furthers our distinct mission of Unifying Healthcare IT across Europe by celebrating the pioneers of healthcare IT – *IT @ 2009* succeeded in rewarding the best of those who have designed and implemented new solutions in the field. We were elated with the overwhelming response from healthcare IT experts and professionals from across Europe, many of whom joined us at Square in Brussels October 29 - 30 for the *IT @ 2009* event.

Delegates were treated to MINDBYTE presentations on more than 20 of the top submissions selected by the *IT @ 2009* Review Committee and then wielded their influence by voting electronically for the five most innovative solutions.

Networking was more than just part of the title of our groundbreaking event – participants celebrated together at the opening reception and enjoyed interactive lunches during the two-day competition. A number of new projects and vital collaborations were undoubtedly initiated before, during and after *IT @ 2009*.

The WORKBENCH sessions on the second day highlighted a number of key IT innovations, which have been implemented across the continent. The Q&A sessions following the five finalist presentations were often lively and invigorated debates. Indeed, delegates became quite invested in their vital role of selecting the winner.

HITM and our partners, the European Association of Hospital Managers (EAHM), look forward to *IT @ 2010*, which promises to showcase even more innovative healthcare IT solutions. Make sure that you do not miss out on the chance to participate in Europe's premier healthcare IT event – SAVE THE DATE: 7-8 October 2010!

Christian Marolt, *Secretary-General*,

European Association of Healthcare IT Managers, c.m@hitm.eu

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the European Association of Hospital Managers (EAHM) it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the *IT @ Networking Awards 2009 (IT @ 2009)* winners. We were honoured to collaborate with the European Association of Healthcare IT Managers (HITM) for this innovative event, which brought the latest healthcare IT solutions to the pan-European stage.

This event served to emphasise the fact that Healthcare IT is of core importance to hospital management. Many of the projects presented highlighted how the right IT solution can increase cost-effectiveness, productivity and precision. Presenters were also honest about the difficulties they encountered when implementing their solutions- a refreshing change from other awards events.

As EAHM is dedicated to healthcare IT, we have set up a new working group to further explore the opportunities and possibilities healthcare IT brings. It is a complicated sector that can often seem daunting to hospital managers, especially considering a bad investment can have disastrous effects. We are working to keep our members informed so they can make the right decisions. *IT @ 2009* was an excellent learning opportunity.

With an eye on building on the success of this year's event, we are delighted to partner with HITM for *IT @ 2010*. It is clear that IT in the healthcare sector will only grow in importance as health systems and hospitals battle to cope with current challenges (i.e. financial crises; aging populations; increased movement of patients and healthcare professionals). Across Europe we are already making strides in e-health and telemedicine, *IT @ 2010* will serve as an opportunity to showcase new innovations.

Willy Heuschen,

Secretary General,

European Association of Hospital Managers

Published on : Sat, 3 Jan 2009