

# Cyberinfrastructure for Public Health dg.o2005 Birds of a Feather Session

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## ABSTRACT

The goal of this Birds of a Feather session will be to begin developing an interdisciplinary community of public health researchers and practitioners, social scientists, government representatives, and IT experts interested in developing cyberinfrastructures for public health.

## Categories and Subject Descriptors

C.2.4 [**Computer communication networks**]: Distributed systems - client-server, distributed applications, distributed databases.

J.3 [**Computer Applications**]: Life and Medical Sciences - *health, medical information systems*

J.4 [**Computer Applications**]: Social and Behavioral Sciences - *psychology, sociology*.

K.4 [**Computers and Society**]: Organizational impacts - *automation, computer-supported collaborative work*.

## General Terms

Management, Measurement Experimentation, Security, Human Factors, Theory Legal Aspects

## Keywords

Public health cyberinfrastructure, public health knowledge networks, distributed intelligence, health surveillance networks, network recommender systems, tobacco control.

## 1. SESSION DESCRIPTION

The leading preventable causes of premature mortality are due in large measure to causes that can be changed, such as tobacco use, dietary behaviors, substance/alcohol abuse, injuries, and communicable diseases. Yet addressing these major public health threats remain an acute challenge: they represent system-wide problems that would benefit from network-centric approaches that have as a foundation the discovery, development and delivery of critical information. Now is the time to assess the role of digital government in the development of critical cyberinfrastructures to support the public health community meet these challenges.

The goal of this birds of a feather session will be to begin developing an interdisciplinary community of public health researchers and practitioners, social scientists, government representatives, and IT experts interested in developing cyberinfrastructures for public health. The discussion will seek to identify the functional, organizational and technological requirements for the development of cyberinfrastructures for the public health community. The session will serve as a forum for follow on discussion with the panel of experts who participated in a two-panel symposium at the DG.O 2004 conference titled "Critical Cyber Infrastructures for Public Health."