



Titel: MOBIMED - IT-basierte Technologien für die ländliche Gesundheitsversorgung und mobile Kliniken in Südafrika
MOBIMED – IT-based Technologies for Rural Healthcare and Mobile Clinics in South Africa

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Event: Workshop, Stellenbosch/South Africa, 5-8 November 2012
Workshop, Berlin/Germany, 24-28 February 2013

Brief description:

Medicine is currently undergoing fundamental changes thanks to the progress made in the fields of analytics and biomedicine, with computer technology playing an ever-greater role in this process. The heavy use of IT in modern healthcare now represents an opportunity, particularly for countries where medical care is not freely available to a large part of the population. The adaptation of diagnostic systems to mobile systems can offer solutions for improved healthcare in remote areas.

The "MOBIMED" project is now exploring the use of IT-based technologies for the provision of medical care in rural districts and mobile clinics in South Africa: The Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedical Engineering (IBMT) has recently developed a truck that is fitted out as a mobile diagnostic laboratory. It can thus be driven out to remote areas and used for example to diagnose tuberculosis, diabetes and HIV or for antenatal screening.

Under the Mobimed project the Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedicine teamed up with the University of Stellenbosch/South Africa to stage the workshop "IT-based technologies for rural healthcare and



mobile clinics in South Africa" in Stellenbosch from 5 to 8 November 2012. Their aim was to initiate scientific exchange and to develop cooperation in the fields of IT-based healthcare and biomedical engineering. The programme also included an inspection of the truck and its diagnostic laboratory. Development of the truck itself, its involvement in the local healthcare system and reports about the experiences gained there served as the starting point to investigate further improvements to medical care for rural areas of South Africa. In total, the event in Stellenbosch was attended by 20 German delegates from the worlds of science and industry.

It is being followed by an innovation workshop for junior scientists on the subject of IT-based health systems to be held in Berlin from 24 to 28 February 2013. The results of the workshop which took place in November 2012 will form the basis for this event. The main objective is to develop possible solutions and prototypes specially tailored to the needs of South Africa and neighbouring countries. It will include the introduction of young scientists, as well as a discussion of themes such as the requirements and shortcomings in the healthcare systems of Germany and South Africa. The two workshops will be linked by a twelve-week design school project, organised by Potsdam's School of Design Thinking: An interdisciplinary team of students is working on the development of prototypes for innovations in healthcare in rural areas. The results will then be presented at the workshop in Berlin on 28 February.