CDMS Research Seminar

Enabling AI for Digital Mental Health

Monday, 17th July 2023, 1:00 pm
PS-EA.1.04

<u>Speaker</u>: Professor Jim Warren, University of Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

<u>Abstract</u>: There are many ways in which IT can support mental health. Such computer-based tools often cross the threshold into Artificial Intelligence (AI), and can also be seen as part of 'consumer-health informatics' where IT acts to empower individuals in their own care. This talk will present a range of mental health applications including patient-operated screening tools and chatbots that teach self-management skills. A key engineering question is how tightly to script app dialog, and where deep-learning based methods can safely be allowed to make decisions. Classification of user input, as compared to end-to-end response generation, is particularly promising. The presenter provides examples in the context of his research, mostly aimed at digital tools for mental health and resilience of teens.

<u>Bio</u>: Jim Warren is Professor Health Informatics at the University of Auckland, based in the School of Computer Science. He specialises in design and evaluation of information systems for long-term conditions, e.g. cardiovascular risk management. In recent years he has increasingly focused on screening and e therapy to support mental health of New Zealand youth. He is collaborating with a UK-based programme, "Adolescent Mental Health and Development in the Digital World," on methods of personalization to promote adherence to mental health apps. He is a Foundation Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Informatics (now the Australasian Institute of Digital Health). His degrees are in Computer Science and Information Systems from University of Maryland.

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