

Technologies Closely Connected to Citizens' Health

- methodologies, engagement and ICT-based communication tools

This Thematic Session will present research projects conducted within the program “*Technologies Closely Connected to Citizens' Health (TCCCH)*.” The broad scope of the program is to investigate user-oriented health care that involves the use of technology to support health, care and rehabilitation. TCCCH is based on a bottom-up, interdisciplinary approach, striving to involve the end-users during the research process and determined to implement the results.

The purpose of the present Thematic Session is to present the research of four to five doctoral students, with the intention to increase the understanding of how technology can:

- Reduce inequality in health
- Empower and engage in one's health
- Facilitate communication among health care professionals and with patients
- Methodological exploration concerning the timing of when user involvement is essential

Chair: Tina Helle and Jette Bangshaab.

Short Bio: *Tina Helle*, MScOT, PhD and reg. OT is a researcher at University College Northern Denmark and a post doc at the Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Division of Occupational Therapy, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. Her main interest is the use of everyday technologies among adults with chronic diseases. Her focus is on the use of everyday technologies as a natural integrated part of performing daily activities with respect to how technology may hinder and/or improve health and quality of life. Dr. Helle is currently the Principal Investigator of several projects, she is tutoring PhD students, has written a number of publications and presented at numerous international conferences.

Jette Bangshaab, Master of social sciences, Diploma in educational sciences, Reg. PT, is head of the research program “*Technology closely connected to citizens’ health*” at the University College Northern Denmark. Her main interests are research and development in the field of assistive technology for healthcare purposes due to challenges in the demographic development with more elderly people and the increase in the number of citizens with chronic diseases. Besides, she is engaged in developing user driven innovation in the field of assistive technology from the perspective that both the patient/citizen and healthcare professionals, which is regarded central for a successful implementation.