

Speaker Presentation Profile

1. PRESENTER'S INFORMATION

FULL NAME	Dr Moretlo Molefi		
DESIGNATION	Director		
COMPANY	Telemedicine Africa		
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2. PRESENTER'S BACKGROUND

Dr Molefi recently set up an eHealth consultancy business focusing on eHealth programme management, distance medical services and Telemedicine consulting. Actively involved in the development of eHealth solutions for developing countries as well as giving strategic guidance in creating and implementing eHealth services both for clinical and educational purposes. The focus is on ICT –based systems that support all levels of healthcare including primary healthcare and tertiary care. Currently consulting to the Medical Research council of SA on the implementation of a virtual hospital network involving 18 hospitals in one of the provinces in South Africa. Has spearheaded a successful rural connectivity pilot on Telemedicine in Partnership with Motorola and the State information Technology Agency using wireless systems in Limpopo province. She was previously Director for the Telemedicine lead programme at the MRC.

3. TITLE/TOPIC OF YOUR PRESENTATION

Telemedicine as a tool for equitable health service delivery

4. PRESENTATION SYNOPSIS/ABSTRACT

Brief summary of content and focus of the presentation:

Telemedicine presents an opportunity to change many lives of African rural communities but to date there are a number of barriers to successful implementation, therefore feasible business and technology models for sustainability need to be explored.

The determination of new referral methods and transfer of patients to facilities as well as over the borders and the medico legal consequences need to be addressed. There is a growing shortage of healthcare workers in Sub-Sahara Africa.

Human resource crisis on the continent gives us an opportunity to utilize technology in a way that it will benefit communities. Cost benefit analysis of most of the eHealth programmes need to be quantified in order to convince governments to adopt eHealth as part of their ongoing strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of which most relate to health. The association of health and poverty calls on the global community to prioritize the use of ICT's in healthcare.

Critical success factors

- Availability of adequate resources,(financial human resources and expertise)
- Accountability and ownership by all stakeholders including the community
- Telecommunications infrastructure
- Government buy- in
- Sustainable revenue models
- Appropriate training
- Affordability
- Cultural sensitivities

Key points for discussion include:

- PPP's in eHealth
- Telemedicine projects in SA
- Sustainability models