HealthGIS 2013
November 5th, Orlando, Florida

Second ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on the Use of GIS in Public Health
In conjunction with the 21st ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems

Proceedings of the 2nd ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on the Use of GIS in Public Health
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Editor
Yaron Kanza, Technion and Jacobs Technion-Cornell Innovation Institute

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FOREWORD

These proceedings contain the papers selected for presentation at the second edition of the ACM Workshop on the Use of GIS in Public Health (HealthGIS 2013) which is being held in conjunction with the ACM SIGSPATIAL GIS conference.

Public health and public healthcare are important social issues with deep implications for government administrations and with large effect on individual standards of living. In many countries, healthcare institutions are being pushed to their limit by an aging population and increased urbanization (which may lead to additional health issues such as pollution). Many of these challenges have strong geospatial components. For example, GIS techniques may be used to determine spatial correlates of health. In addition, the ability to detect and record the location history of individuals and groups using cellular phones coupled with the ability to analyze and visually present large amounts of geospatial data can be harnessed to advance health-related applications. Other notable examples include using geographic information systems and appropriate applications to assist the evacuation of injured people, monitoring the spread of infectious diseases, collecting data for statistical analysis of the effect of pollution on public health, and providing assistance to elderly people with orientation difficulties. These applications necessitate new techniques, systems, and algorithms to effectively utilize geospatial data in the context of public health.

This program of the workshop is organized in four sessions: (1) Collecting and analyzing health-related data, (2) Web services and social media, (3) Toward healthier cities and healthier life, and (4) an invited talk on utilizing mobile sensors, streaming video and geographical information, for evacuation assistance in disaster areas, by Flora Gilboa-Solomon from IBM research labs. The program also features a panel where several top experts in the field will discuss about “Are privacy and security concerns exaggerated when it comes to health data?”

We would like to thank the many people who contributed to the success of HealthGIS 2013. We thank the authors for providing the content of the program and the program committee for the evaluation process. We would also like to thank the organization committee of ACM GIS 2013 for the help with the workshop planning. Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to Hanan Samet for his guidance and support throughout the review process and program preparation.

We hope that these proceedings will inspire new research ideas, and that you will serve as a valuable resource for the community.

Daniel W. Goldberg
James J. Horey
Yaron Kanza
and
Oded Shaham

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