

## Accepted Manuscript

Trends and Characteristics of Global Medical Informatics Conferences from 2007 to 2017: A Bibliometric Comparison of Conference Publications among China, the United States, Europe and the World

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PII: S0169-2607(18)30892-7  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmpb.2018.08.017>  
Reference: COMM 4778

To appear in: *Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine*

Received date: 17 July 2018  
Revised date: 19 August 2018  
Accepted date: 26 August 2018

Please cite this article as: Yuxi Jia , Wei Wang , Jun Liang , Li Liu , Zhenying Chen , Jiajie Zhang , Ting Chen , Jianbo Lei , Trends and Characteristics of Global Medical Informatics Conferences from 2007 to 2017: A Bibliometric Comparison of Conference Publications among China, the United States, Europe and the World, *Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine* (2018), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmpb.2018.08.017>

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## Highlights

- As the second largest economy in the world, China has invested considerable financial and policy support into hospital informatization since health care reform in 2010, however, to the best of our knowledge, the results and experience of such investments have not been compared with relevant research and applications in the United States or Europe.
- From the perspective of professional conference proceedings, this study comparatively analyzed the current situations, characteristics, hotspots, and trends of medical informatics (MI) development in China, the United States and Europe to help Chinese MI researchers and practitioners to summarize experiences and determine gaps compared to American and European peers.
- In total, 2285, 1601, 1930 and 5431 papers were publicized from the AMIA Symposium (USA), MIE (Europe), MEDINFO (Global) and Chinese MI conferences (China) between 2007 and 2017, respectively, with an H-index of 32, 19, 19 and 3, respectively. The AMIA Symposium, MIE and MEDINFO received submissions from 43, 68 and 80 countries (or regions), respectively, but Chinese MI conferences (CMIAAS, CHINC, CHITEC, CPMI) only received submissions from 3 foreign countries. Author affiliations were highly similar among the AMIA Symposium, MIE and MEDINFO, as 67%, 75% and 70% of authors came from university/college, respectively; 18%, 10% and 11% from medical institutions, respectively; and 7%, 8% and 10% from institutes, respectively. In contrast, the majority (54%) of authors in Chinese MI conferences came from medical institutions followed by university/college (17%) and institutes (10%). Of the top 5 authors with the most publications in AMIA Symposium, MIE and MEDINFO, 14/15 of them had medical backgrounds, but only one author from the Chinese MI conferences majored in medicine. Electronic medical record (EMR) was included in the top 10 high-frequency keywords by all four conference groups, but the amount of time that it appeared differed in 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively
- Given the size of the Chinese economy and the substantial investment in MI, the output in terms of conferences remains low. China should fully use its second-mover advantage and application advantages and utilize international experiences and cooperation to make more contributions to global MI development.

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