

## Special Issue of Interacting with Computers

### Supportive Interaction: Computer Interventions for Mental Health

**Guest Editors:**

Gavin Doherty, Trinity College Dublin and Timothy Bickmore, Northeastern University

Mental illness has been identified as one of the greatest social and economic challenges facing society in the coming decades. However, there are significant barriers to access for many people suffering from mental illness, including overburdened public health care systems, geographic distance from point of care, difficulties encountered by individuals in engaging with services, and the stigma associated with mental illness.

With this issue of *Interacting with Computers* we wish to explore the potential of technology to improve access, engagement, effectiveness and affordability of treatment in the area of mental health. While the range of technologies available has increased in recent years, with research on VR exposure therapies, email and teleconference therapy, therapeutic games, therapeutic mobile phone applications and virtual characters, many issues need to be addressed before such technologies can achieve widespread deployment.

This special issue is inviting contributions which address the design and evaluation of technologies to support mental health treatment and mental wellness. Topics addressed may include:

- Computer Mediated Therapy
- Mobile and pervasive applications to support mental wellness
- Designing for reflection
- Design for user engagement
- Addressing stigma and privacy within design
- Adoption of technology by mental health care providers
- Interface design considerations for users with mental illness

The context of application can include formal and informal mental health care, mental health aspects of autism spectrum disorders, and assistive cognition applications to support mental health and mental wellness.

"*Interacting with Computers*" is an interdisciplinary journal of Human-Computer Interaction, published by Elsevier. More information about this journal can be found at:

[www.elsevier.com/locate/intcom](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/intcom)

**Submission:**

Please send expressions of interest to [Gavin.Doherty@cs.tcd.ie](mailto:Gavin.Doherty@cs.tcd.ie) as soon as possible.

Submissions must be in electronic form and in an editable format. For manuscript style, please see the APA Publications Manual (click [here](#) for a summary). Detailed instructions for submission will be issued in response to Expressions of Interest.

**Important dates:**

Full paper submission: 15th July 2009

Response to authors: 15th August 2009

Final version of papers: 9th September 2009

Tentative publication time: November/December issue 2009

**Referee Panel:**

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