17. DATA—INFORMATION—KNOWLEDGE: THE WAY UP IN THE ICU? EVERYDAY CLINICAL CHALLENGES

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Automatic data sampling is the first step of a process, that could end up in building solid knowledge-databases for clinical decision support.

Patient centered data (Biological signals, Lab-results, Imaging, Notes, Reports) become transformed into clin- ical information mainly at a subdiagnostic level. This information must be presented in a way, that allows the user to settle new diagnoses (or the need for deeper investigation), followed by ordering of new treatment or organizational processes. Typical problems on this part of the journey are troubles during implementation of PDM- Systems, broken interfaces and lack of knowhow at IT- supporting departments in the hospital. C. Wagner will address the major pitfalls from the view of the vendor, trying to install such a system.

Once comprehensive and attractive information at the subdiagnostic level has arrived and is available at the bedside, staffmembers must use this at its best. Lack of user's knowhow and inferior training leads to un- or misuse of precious information, that could clear tricky clinical situations. Missed diagnoses, missed or excessive procedures are the result, impairing patient safety. V. Lanza will demonstrate how easy it is, to use all this information—wired or wireless—to establish complex patient's treatment and to elucidate the patient's pathway along OR and ICU.

Patient is treated successfully, left the ward, the sub- sequent institution has all the necessary information about the patient. Tons of data are stored on the hospital servers, forgotten and mostly never retrieved. This giant stock of information could be used, to match external guidelines like accepted medical standards with internal processing infor- mation. Very often, senior staff member do this, write pa- pers and draw algorithms using up many hours of worktime. SOPs are developed, even complete manuals about running ICUs or ORs. And the authors wonder a lot, that nothing but just a few and by far not all steps on the complex way from data to knowledge should be presented and discussedin this session.