Motivating for Medical Informatics in general, and looking at possibilities for empowering ICU personnel through the use of advanced ICT tools in particular

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Modern medicine is known to be suffering from a cost escalation where the total expenditures are year by year eating a continuously growing portion of the GDPs in most western countries. The cost problem can be targeted with various medical informatics applications, but this usually requires local academic initiatives, which calls for co-operation between the medical disciplines and computer science, among others. In this talk I will motivate why medical informatics might be an interesting research field for computer scientists. Furthermore, I will present some ideas for how the quality of ventilator therapy that is given at a hospital’s intensive care unit can be improved by using ICT tools to increase the personnel’s levels of competence (knowledge and skills).