In August 2015, Helen Monkman, a PhD student in Health Information Science traveled to São Paulo, Brazil to attend MedInfo 2015 - the 15th World Congress on Medical and Health Informatics organized by the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA). The paper Helen co-authored with Janessa Griffith, a PhD Student at University of Toronto, and Dr. Andre Kushniruk, her supervisor, was one the seven finalists selected in the student paper competition. Their paper, “Evidence-based Heuristics for Evaluating Demands on eHealth Literacy and Usability in a Mobile Consumer Health Application” was awarded second place. Helen was honoured to receive this award.

Their paper describes the development and application of a novel set of heuristics (or design guidelines) developed for simultaneously evaluating usability and eHealth literacy demands in consumer health information systems. Their heuristics were created based on evidence from published studies investigating eHealth literacy and usability. Moreover, their heuristics can be used to inform the design (or re-design) and evaluation of systems for consumers (i.e., laypeople, citizens) to help ensure the safety, usability, and understandability of these systems.

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