

NYeC and NYCIF Launch the New York Digital Health Accelerator



Today the New York City Investment Fund (NYCIF) joined the New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC) and the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to launch the **New York Digital Health Accelerator** (NYDHA), a program that will make New York a hub for the emerging digital health technology industry.

The NYDHA is run by NYCIF and NYeC. In upcoming months, the program will choose 12 early- and growth-stage companies that are developing cutting-edge technology products in care coordination, patient engagement, analytics and message alerts for healthcare providers. Each chosen company will be awarded up to \$300,000 along with invaluable mentoring from senior-level executives at leading hospitals and other providers in New York. The focus areas of innovation will support the development of products that help the state's Medicaid Redesign Team and its new "Health Homes" program, an initiative intended to make the state's treatment of Medicaid patients more coordinated and efficient.

"Health information technology is helping us transform our healthcare system to provide high-quality, cost-efficient, and patient-centered care for the 21st century," said New York State Health Commissioner Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H. "The Digital Health Accelerator program will further advance New York's national leadership in health IT as it will attract leading-edge companies at the forefront of developing the technology necessary for robust electronic health records and digital care coordination systems."

"When the government and the private sector work hand-in-hand to encourage business growth in our state we see results. This Accelerator will help New York keep and attract businesses that grow our state's economy and create jobs in our communities," said Maria Gotsch, President and CEO of NYCIF. "Our initial investment will go a long way towards attracting additional investment into New York."

"The economy and healthcare are the two most important issues facing the state, and the New York Digital Health Accelerator will allow us to tackle them both at once," added David Whitlinger, Executive Director of NYeC. "This initiative represents the best kind of marriage between the public and private sectors. We are leveraging New York's investment in our statewide health information exchange network and empowering it with the free market."

The NYDHA's unique feature is that it offers participants the opportunity to engage directly with a broad network of providers in New York State, including hospitals, long-term care providers, community health centers, and primary care providers. Tech companies accepted into the program will receive direct mentorship and feedback from senior-level executives with the participating providers. In addition, companies will have priority access to the technology platform that is connecting electronic health records across New York State, the **Statewide Health Information Network of New York** (SHIN-NY).

An application for this program, and more information, is available at digitalhealthaccelerator.com. An informational session for companies interested in participating will be held on May 10, 2012 in New York City. Applications for the NYDHA program are due June 1, 2012.

With its initial investment of \$4.2 million, the NYDHA program will create approximately 1,500 jobs over five years. In addition, it is expected that the companies will attract upwards of \$150 million to \$200 million in investment from the venture capital community post-program. The NYDHA will stimulate a new marketplace, creating the next generation of healthcare tools while positioning New York as the capital of the health IT entrepreneurial sector.

The investment capital will be provided by a syndicate of investors, including Aetna, Milestone Venture Partners, New Leaf Venture Partners, New York City Investment Fund, Quaker Partners, Safeguard Scientifics, and UnitedHealth Group. The Empire State Development Corporation, Health Research Inc., and NYeC will provide additional funds and/or services to operate the NYDHA.

18 leading healthcare providers have agreed to participate in the program:

- Albany Medical Center
- Catholic Health System
- Community Healthcare Network
- Continuum Health Partners
- Ellis Medicine
- FECS Health and Human Services System
- Finger Lakes Community Health
- Hometown Health Centers
- Hudson Valley Initiative
- Institute for Family Health
- Maimonides Medical Center
- NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation
- New York-Presbyterian Hospital
- North Shore LIJ Health System
- NYU Langone Medical Center
- Stony Brook University Medical Center
- Visiting Nurse Service of Schenectady and Saratoga Counties
- Winthrop University Hospital

For frequent updates, or to apply to the program, visit: <http://www.digitalhealthaccelerator.com>.

John D. Bennett, MD, FACC, FACP Appointed to NYeC Board of Directors



NYeC is proud to announce the newest member of its board of directors, John D. Bennett, MD, FACC, FACP, President and CEO of Capital District Physicians' Health Plan (CDPHP). In this role, Dr. Bennett will work alongside our 19 existing board members to develop policies and standards to assist healthcare providers make the shift to electronic health records, as well as guide the development of the Statewide Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY).

"There can be no debate for digitizing America's medical records," said Dr. Bennett. "Long before electronic medical records were mandated by the federal government, CDPHP was leading the way, helping providers make the switch. I'm proud to be part of an organization that understands that electronic medical records will improve patient care and reduce health care costs." Established in 1984 as a physician-founded, community-based not-for-profit health plan, CDPHP represents more than 350,000 members throughout New York.

"Dr. Bennett is joining our board at a very exciting time," said David Whitlinger, Executive Director of NYeC, "not only for NYeC but for the advancement of health IT in the state. He brings to the board great vision and an impressive track record of pioneering the practical implementation of health IT on the front lines of medicine."

The board of NYeC is currently made up of healthcare and health IT leaders from across the state.

Southern Tier HealthLink Honored for Health IT Achievements During 2011 Flooding



When the Southern Tier region flooded during September 2011, Southern Tier HealthLink (STHL), through use of health information exchange, came to the aid of patients and providers in dire need of health records. Most of the information needed related to drug interactions and allergies—information which,

if unavailable, could mean the difference between life and death.

In recognition of these efforts, the Broome County Legislature issued a Proclamation that March 15, 2012 be Southern Tier HealthLink Appreciation Day. Along with them, UHS and Lourdes Hospital were also recognized by the Broome County Legislature for outstanding service to the community during the flood.

“Many of the people who were evacuated arrived at the centers very upset and disoriented because they had left their house in such a rush,” said Christina Galanis, STHL Executive Director. “They may have come without their prescriptions and couldn’t remember the name of the drug or dosage.” She added that it gave patients peace of mind to know those treating them could retrieve the most current data.

While access to medical records by way of HIE typically requires written consent, during emergency situations, such as patients requiring treatment in storm shelters, qualified providers can access medical records unless the patient has previously signed a form to specifically deny such access.

Mayo Clinic Social Media Conference

New York City Health Business Leaders has teamed up with social media powerhouse Mayo Clinic and leading New York hospital system Continuum Health Partners to bring best-in-class social media education to healthcare professionals in the tri-state area, and beyond: **Connecting Healthcare & Social Media**. This dynamic and interactive two-day conference will feature national and local healthcare social media thinkers and practitioners including Lee Aase and Dr. Farris Timimi (Mayo Clinic Center for Social Media), Ed Bennett (University of Maryland Medical Center), Dr. Mike Sevilla (Family Medicine Rocks), Chris Boyer (Inova Health System), Kathy Kearns (Continuum Health Partners), Dr. Katie Mabon (Mt. Sinai), and Margaret Fontana (Meridian Health).

NYeC eNews subscribers: Use code NYEC12 to receive a rate of \$495 through May 4th (standard rate: \$895).

Job Postings: Interested in working with NYeC?

To become a part of cutting edge projects that impact healthcare statewide, apply online at: <http://nyehealth.org/index.php/about-us/job-opportunities>.

Software Engineer
Senior Network Engineer
HL7 Interface Engineer
Service Desk Technician
Senior Program Manager - Accelerator Program
Software Engineer – Accelerator Program
Project Manager

Join the Conversation!

Want to hear more about NYeC? Keep up-to-date about our health IT initiatives while connecting with others in the community.

Facebook <http://on.fb.me/lrmRsm>
Linked In <http://linkd.in/JH2huJ>
Twitter <http://twitter.com/NYeHealth>

Weill Cornell Accepting Applications for Health IT Certificate Program (*Financial assistance available*)

The Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences is accepting applications through May 25, 2012, for its five-month Health Information Technology Certificate Program.

This program, which runs July 14 through December 15, 2012, is designed to provide students with the practical knowledge and skills required to work with electronic health records (EHRs) and other types of health information technology. Created with the working healthcare or IT professional in mind, the program combines online classes with in-person Saturday sessions, held once a month at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, and in New York City.

Cornell is pleased to offer financial assistance for this program to a small number of eligible applicants through the federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. The financial assistance, available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, will pay \$5,000 of the \$12,500 program charge, with the \$7,500 balance to be paid by the student. Students applying for this assistance must submit their applications by May 5, 2012.

For more information and to apply, visit www.sce.cornell.edu/exec/hitcp or www.weill.cornell.edu/publichealth/divisions/quality_medical_informatics/certificate.html

This program is sponsored by the Center for Healthcare Informatics and Policy at Weill Cornell.

NYeC Connects with the Future Health IT Workforce



Last month, seventy HITech students at Westchester Community College took advantage of a unique opportunity to interact with professionals in health IT at the college’s first health IT symposium.

Supported by NYeC’s Regional Extension Center, the March 23rd symposium, called Health IT in the Hudson Valley and Beyond: Linking Talent with Opportunities, allowed aspiring health IT professionals to interact and network with professionals from local organizations working in the field. Students engaged panelists in discussions on the marketplace, curious as to how best to position themselves for jobs in the industry, and to prepare for challenges during their search.

The afternoon exhibition of vendors and human resource professionals put students in front of several organizations who are actively hiring, concluding with mock job interviews, and a software demonstration by Doc-tor.com.

The Westchester Community College Health IT program offers six months of non-credit classes, held during evenings and weekends, to prepare healthcare and health IT professionals for positions such as implementation support specialists, technical/software support staff, and trainers in healthcare organizations.

For more information about the Health Information Technology Program, please email hitech@sunywcc.edu, or call (914) 606-6123.

**For more information please visit us at:
www.nyehealth.org**