

Eric Topol and Ezekiel Emanuel to Keynote the 2014 Digital Health Conference



We are pleased to announce the keynote speakers for our fourth annual [Digital Health Conference](#), taking place November 17-18 in New York City: **Eric J. Topol, MD**, Director, Scripps Translational Science Institute and **Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD**, Vice Provost for Global Initiatives & Chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy, University of Pennsylvania.

Once again, the DHC bring will together 850 senior-level professionals from across the healthcare ecosystem to learn about cutting-edge health innovations and foster dynamic conversation addressing how healthcare is being redefined through technology.

Join your peers and put yourself at the center of the conversation: [Register Today!](#)

HealthConnections & the VA Team Up to Improve Healthcare for Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and [HealthConnections](#) recently announced the launch of a bi-directional interface to use health information exchange (HIE) technology to enable easier, secure access to veterans' vital medical information to improve the quality of care. HealthConnections is one of 16 HIEs in the United States partnering with VA to integrate the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) system with the HIE.

The integration was achieved through HealthWay's eHealth Exchange, a group of federal agencies and non-federal organizations with a common mission to improve patient care using a secure, trusted, and interoperable health information exchange. With over 275 participating organizations—including 25 regional hospitals, radiology centers, and labs—the health information exchange manages and governs the collection of medical records from over 40 health care facilities. VA providers' access to the HIE offers a more comprehensive view to veterans' medical records as they seek medical treatment outside of the VA, while giving other community health care providers the ability to query into the VA's system.

Following the integration with the Veteran's Administration, HealthConnections was selected to participant in connectivity testing with the Department of Defense (DoD) for enabling a bi-directional exchange to manage the care of active duty soldiers.

Fort Drum, home to the 10th Mountain Division in Northern New York, will greatly benefit for this relationship in order to provide improvement care coordination between government and public sector care providers.

(Source: [HealthConnections](#))

Southern Tier HealthLink Now Live on the Statewide Network

[Southern Tier HealthLink](#) (STHL) recently completed their system transition to the new statewide platform in conjunction with their participation in the Statewide Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY).

The SHIN-NY is a digital network that will span across the state of New York and electronically connect the regional health information exchanges (HIE) throughout the state, enabling them to securely transmit electronic medical records between regions. The SHIN-NY is a state-funded public utility coordinated by the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) and NYeC. The SHIN-NY will offer new connections that will enhance the ability of patients critical health data to follow them throughout the state; meaning wherever in New York they choose to receive their care, their health story will go with them, allowing their providers instant access to important health information. The SHIN-NY also makes New York, which has been a leader in health innovation for some time, the first large state in the country to build a network of this kind.

As part of STHL's collaboration with the SHIN-NY, providers in the region using the STHL HIE will now have access to more data for their patients who have given consent. As additional regional exchanges join the SHIN-NY, the amount of data and information will continue to grow, allowing providers to make more informed decisions and give better care, as well as reduce healthcare spending by avoiding duplicating tests that may have already been performed elsewhere in the state.

[Read more.](#)

(Source: [STHL](#))

First-of-its-Kind PCMH Study: Hudson Valley Medical Homes Outperform Peer Practices Using Paper-Based or Electronic Health Records

THiNC

In a novel approach to test the merits of the patient-centered medical home model, [research published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*](#) concludes these practices improve care quality at a significantly higher rate than their non-PCMH peers—regardless of whether the comparison practices used paper or electronic health records. The three-year study also found the odds of patients receiving recommended care over time in the medical home were considerably higher.

The paper, “The Patient-Centered Medical Home, Electronic Health Records, and Quality of Care,” sheds new light on the effectiveness of the PCMH. Lead author Lisa Kern, MD, MPH, of Weill Cornell Medical College and her colleagues followed 675 primary care providers in three groups over the study period—representing medical homes, paper-based non-medical homes and EHR-based non-medical homes—to test their progress improvement on 10 industry-recognized primary care quality measures. The study was funded by the Commonwealth Fund and the New York State Department of Health.

Significantly, the study examines PCMH practices of varying sizes and types—from large group practices to small, solo practices and federally-qualified health centers—in an open medical community, without a large integrated health system. Findings can be applied across varying independent practice types.

“These results demonstrate that you’re going to get better quality of care if you see a provider that’s part of a patient-centered medical home. That’s a big deal for patients and purchasers of care,” said Susan Stuard, **THiNC’s** Executive Director.

[Read more.](#)
(Source: **THiNC**)

New York Medical Database Aids Doctors, Patients

New York is quietly building one of the nation’s largest computer databases of medical records, a system that when finished will allow patients and doctors alike to see complete health histories in one place and promises to save millions in costs by avoiding redundant tests and unneeded hospital admissions. People who visit emergency rooms are less likely to be admitted when they’re enrolled in the program, and repeat radiological scans and hospital readmissions are also less likely, according to initial limited studies done around Rochester, New York’s third-largest city.

“The value to society is also tremendous in avoiding unnecessary and redundant health care,” said Dr. Rainu Kaushal, chairwoman of Weill Cornell Medical College’s Department of Healthcare Policy and Research, who conducted the Rochester studies on the system, known as SHIN-NY—which stands for the State Health Information Network for New York and is pronounced “shiny.”

There’s a broader effort nationally to advance medicine from paper to computer files. The Veterans Administration, for instance, already has centralized records for nearly 3 million people that both patients and doctors can look at. In such exchanges, patients must sign consent forms to have records included. They are subject to the same federal privacy restrictions that already apply to patient records in hospitals and doctors’ offices.

New York’s is being treated as a public utility, with providers paying a fee to connect but able to query patient records without added costs. Centralized records can be useful because patients with complicated conditions may be unable to accurately recall all their treatments and medications from various doctors, or they may be in the throes of a medical crisis and unable to communicate, Kaushal said.

[Read more.](#)
(Source: *Wall St. Journal*)

The App-Based Health Care of the Future



We willingly give our health care providers a wealth of data about ourselves. Imagine if that power was reversed. There isn't a thing about health care that isn't costly. Clinical treatment of any kind costs patients an immense amount of money, an inordinate amount of time, and sometimes doesn't even work the way we hoped it would. Given the huge level of investment it requires, it's kind of remarkable that for much of the process, patients are kept in the dark. After all, our health care providers already know so much about us.

But what if that dynamic was reversed?

At the Northside Festival in Brooklyn, a small panel convened to discuss the ways our data-driven tech scene can work to the advantage of every patient in health care—but hasn't. Called "Empowering the Most Important Caregiver: The Patient," members included Chris Bradley, CEO of Mana Health, Mario Schlosser of health insurance startup Oscar, Rachel Winokur of Aetna's tech services division Healthagen, and Paul Wilder of The New York eHealth Collaborative.

"All of this data is being generated in health care," said Chris Bradley, "but it's not helping the people who need it most." Recent announcements from companies like Apple suggest that the next big push in tech is going to be for our health.

[Read more.](#)

(Source: *The Daily Beast*)

Google & Apple Want to be Your Doctor, and That's a Good Thing



Healthcare has always been a sector ripe for disruption, and now with Google and Apple launching new initiatives for digital health, we're getting a glimpse of how it might actually happen. Wearable tech is turning out to be the back door into the healthcare sector, mostly through data collected from wearable sensors that enable us to monitor our bodies in real time.

If done right, both Google Fit and Apple's HealthKit could eventually help to bring down the high costs of healthcare. All those wearable sensors could one day be transmitting so much data that it's almost a no-brainer that it will help physicians make better decisions about our conditions and ailments. Instead of stopping by the doctor's office once a year for a check-up, or only once something's gone wrong, you will now be checking up on your body weekly, daily, maybe even hourly. And that means that you'd have early warning of emerging problems and be able to take proactive measures in advance.

Google and Apple—as two of the tech sector's most prominent consumer-facing brands—can do a lot to change the way we think of healthcare. You could even argue that this innovation in the wearable tech sector is coming at exactly the right time—right after the nation has had a wrenching debate over the future of Obamacare. At the same time, technology trends such as mobile, big data and wearable technology are combining in creative new ways.

[Read more.](#)

(Source: *The Washington Post*)

New York eHealth Collaborative Achieves DirectTrust.org/EHNAC Accreditation

We're proud to announce that we have achieved full accreditation with the Direct Trusted Agent Accreditation Program (DTAAP) from DirectTrust.org and the Electronic Healthcare Network Accreditation Commission (EHNAC). Direct Trusted Agent accreditation recognizes excellence in health data processing and transactions, and ensures compliance with industry-established standards, HIPAA regulations and the Direct Project.

Through the consultative review process, EHNAC evaluated NYeC in areas of privacy, security and confidentiality; technical performance; business practices and organizational resources as it relates to Directed exchange participants. In addition, EHNAC reviewed the organization's process of managing and transferring protected health information and determined that the organization meets or exceeds all EHNAC criteria and industry standards.

Through completion of the rigorous accreditation process, NYeC demonstrates to its constituents adherence to strict standards and participation in the comprehensive, objective evaluation of its business.

[Read more.](#)

Get Social



A Call To Action for a Nationwide Interoperable Health IT Infrastructure

Earlier this month, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) released *Connecting Health and Care for the Nation: A 10-Year Vision to Achieve an Interoperable Health IT Infrastructure*. This paper describes ONC's broad vision and framework for interoperability and is an invitation to health IT stakeholders—clinicians, consumers, hospitals, public health, technology developers, payers, researchers, policymakers and many others—to join ONC in developing a defined, shared roadmap that will allow us to collectively achieve health IT interoperability as a core foundational element of better care, at a lower cost and better health for all.

Over the past decade, there has been dramatic progress in adoption and use of health IT across the nation. Through deliberate policy and programmatic action, the majority of hospitals and professionals eligible for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs has adopted and are meaningfully using health IT. Across the nation, various types of health information exchange show that data can flow and be used to improve care and health. This progress has laid a strong base upon which we can build. There is much work to do to see that every person and their care providers can get appropriate health information in an electronic format when and how they need it to make care convenient and well-coordinated and allow for improvements in overall health.

[Read more.](#)

(Source: ONC)

Partner Events

HealthCare Business Models - Opportunities and Challenges



June 2, 2014 | New York, NY

One of the toughest aspects of starting or running a business in healthcare is getting your model right, then adapting to changing regulatory and market forces.

Join us at Smart Design, our newest event host and sponsor, in a fun, interactive session led by Michelle Zimmerman, Chief Innovation Officer at Alphacare and formerly at Aetna. We will explore a few of the best new ideas and models in the space and work out some of the challenges.

[Learn more and register.](#)

New York State Health Innovation Challenge



How can health data be utilized by communities? Employers, communities, purchasers, public health experts and consumers are seeking information to help them better understand and navigate the health care delivery system. Individuals, in particular, are more able to make informed decisions on their health care when they are armed with information on health care costs, volume of services provided, quality measures, and service availability.

The New York State Health Innovation Challenge seeks to create technology-driven solutions that enable consumers, employers, public health experts, communities and purchasers to explore quality, charges and costs data for medical procedures provided by NYS inpatient hospital facilities.

Submit your apps by July 26, 2014.

[Learn more.](#)