

Welcome to the latest edition of *TeleNews* from the Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

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HEALTH 3.0: KANSAS HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2009

*July 14 & 15, 2009
Hilton Airport Hotel
Wichita, KS*

Emerging Innovations for Access and Integration of Quality Health Care

Don't miss this event! Expert presentations and focused, interactive roundtable sessions created specifically for Kansas health professionals. This conference, on the status of health information technology use in Kansas, is designed for:

- Hospital and clinic administrators
- Physicians, nurses, and other clinical personnel
- IT administrators and personnel
- EMS professionals
- County public health personnel
- Strategic planners and other project managers at all levels
- Educators

... and others in the health community seeking better utilization of resources, quality improvement, or service enhancements through effective use of available technological resources.

Sponsored by:

- KU Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth
- Kan-ed
- Midwest Alliance for Telehealth & Technology Resources

Electronic Health Records - Privacy's Progress



Since June 2006, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) has been working with representatives from 34 states (increased to 42 states in 2008) to address privacy and security matters related to electronic health information exchange and to test multistate collaborative solutions to difficulties that have been identified.

This Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) engaged in 7 multistate collaborative study projects last year:

- Consent Data Elements in State Laws
- Intrastate and Interstate consent policies
- Harmonizing state privacy laws
- Education and Engagement of the public
- Education of providers
- Standardizing basic security policy requirements
- Developing interorganizational agreements

Kansas was represented as part of the group focused on "Harmonizing state privacy laws." This group studied the existing laws of every state in order to develop a list of subject matter categories that states would need to address in order to enable acceptance of a statewide electronic health information initiative. These categories will provide a guide for mutual discussions or analysis of legislative topics in need of clarification, revision, or introduction.

The outcomes of all 7 projects are scheduled to be presented for public consideration next month (March 4-6, 2009) at the Bethesda (MD) Marriott North Hotel and Conference Center. Registration is free, and the public is encouraged to attend. To register, go to www.rti.org/hispc2009.

For more on HISPC activity, contact Gordon Alloway, Project Manager, KUCTT, at galloway@kumc.edu or by calling (913) 588-2226.

KUCTT Director Briefs Kansas Legislature



Ryan Spaulding, PhD, Director of KUCTT, initiated three days of briefings to the Vision 2020 Committee of the Kansas legislature on Monday, February 2nd, 2009.

The House Vision 2020 Committee, chaired by Rep. Tom Sloan, is conducting the series of briefings, demonstrations, and discussions on health care delivery, starting with a review of telemedicine and telehealth monitoring, according to the



Kansas Legislative Health Agenda (2/2/09 - 2/6/09). The Committee's interest is in learning about telemedicine and telehealth initiatives in Kansas, with the goal of identifying barriers and solutions to continued expansion.

Dr. Spaulding focused his remarks on the traditional model of telemedicine that employs interactive videoconferencing for the provision of specialty services to underserved communities. He gave a brief overview of the technology, advancements, telecommunication issues and reimbursement improvements over the last 18 years in Kansas, as well as the current priorities for the KUCTT and its partner on national initiatives, the American Telemedicine Association (ATA).

Following Dr. Spaulding's remarks, other health care professionals provided presentations that highlighted tele-pharmacy and eICU, as well as the perspectives of insurers and community hospital administrators.

The Vision 2020 Committee will continue its briefings on Kansas telehealth issues on Monday, February 9th, and Wednesday, February 11th. These sessions will include presentations from the Kansas Health Policy Authority, home telehealth administrators, insurers and other health professionals.

KU Professor Authors Practice Parameter for Telepsychiatry



Sharon Cain, M.D., Director of Residency Training for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science faculty at the KU School of Medicine, co-authored a practice parameter for using telepsychiatry to provide services to children and adolescents that was published in the December 2008 issue of the Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP).

AACAP practice parameters are developed in accordance with American Medical Association policy, including interaction with the research authors with AACAP topic experts, AACAP membership, various AACAP councils and organizations, as well as outside constituent groups. The final product becomes recommendations to guide toward best treatment practices or principles necessary for skill development by clinicians.

The publication of this important research by Dr. Cain is only the most recent example of her extensive work in the field of child psychiatry utilizing telemedicine techniques. Beginning with telemedicine clinics throughout Kansas almost a decade ago, Dr. Cain is a true pioneer in providing psychiatry services to remote sites such as rural community mental health centers, urban daycare centers, foster care settings, centers for child welfare, and others.

"Child psychiatry is a perfect fit for telemedicine," Dr. Cain was recently quoted as saying. "In psychiatry we use observation, communication, and education in working with a patient. The hands-on evaluations can be done by a nurse on site."

Dr. Cain actively advocates for best practices within telepsychiatry for children and has represented the KU School of Medicine at a number of national and international presentations. Her continuing contributions across clinical activity, research, and teaching, especially within the area of outreach, serve as a cornerstone of KU Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth's active telepsychiatry program.

For more information on telepsychiatric services, contact Dr. Eve-Lynn Nelson, Assistant Director, KUCTT, at enelson2@kumc.edu.

Telemedicine Benefit - Greater Involvement and Knowledge Gained by Rural Provider



Of the many benefits that the use of telemedicine offers to rural medical practices, the "consultation liaison" capability offers the opportunity for enhancing the quality of patient care now, and well into the future. The primary care physician benefits immediately from improved communication with their current patients, while gaining additional knowledge that allows for future improvements in patient health management.

When any physician sends a patient to visit with a medical specialist, the specialist is in a different location and the local physician generally receives a written report from the specialist or an oral report from the patient at a later appointment. However, through the use of videoconferencing technology a local physician can both present their patient to the specialist as part of the videoconferenced consultation, and remain in conference with the specialist at the end of the patient's visit to ask questions and learn more from the specialist.

According to an American Telemedicine Association (www.atmeda.org) white paper, *Telehealth and Health Care Provider Shortages*, the consultation liaison model for telemedicine use has proven to be particularly effective in e-mental health programs where specialists in urban medical centers have been available for a conference with the rural mental health provider after patient visits from remote sites. Local providers have become more knowledgeable about the management of patient issues. With greater knowledge comes an improved quality of patient care at the local level, combined with more more effective use specialists' services.

For more information about the benefits of telemedicine, contact any of the telemedicine specialists at the KU Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth by going to <http://www2.kumc.edu/telemedicine> or calling (913) 588-2226.

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