Please Join Us for an Inclusive Community Conversation and Live Studio Taping about Health Information Interoperability at the WVIA-TV Studios

THE TOPIC: Sharing Data, Saving Lives: The Healthcare Agenda for Interoperability

WHAT: Come contribute to an important conversation and be a part of a live studio audience.

The Wright Center for Community Health, President and CEO, Dr. Linda Thomas-Hemak will host a critical discussion to illuminate why health information sharing is more critical than ever in the wave of COVID-19. The global pandemic has painfully exposed crucial infrastructure needs in our local, regional and national health care delivery and public health systems, perhaps none more glaring than that of information technology platforms to enhance our community and seamless communication.

We believe the problem is fixable. Health information interoperability is possible and long overdue.

How will we get there?

We're asking you, our valued community stakeholders, to share your experiences and insights during this empowering public education roundtable, panel discussion that will be televised later, as a gift, on our local PBS station, WVIA-TV, as the first in a series.

WHEN:
Tuesday, July 21,2020
2:00-5:00pm

WHERE:
WVIA Studios
100 WVIA Way
Pittston, PA

MODERATOR: Linda Thomas-Hemak, MD, FACP, FAAP – CEO, The Wright Center for Community Health and President, The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education

Dr. Thomas-Hemak became President and Chief Executive Officer of The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education in 2012 and has led its notable regional and national expansion, enabling the organization to blossom into the largest Health Resources and Services Administration Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Safety-Net Consortium in the country. She was instrumental in the creation of The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education's pioneering National Family Medicine Residency Program, designed to address America's physician shortage, misdistribution and related health disparities through collaborations with Federally Qualified Health Center partners engaged as learning environments for family medicine physicians. Under her leadership, the organization established a psychiatry residency and gastroenterology fellowship, significantly expanded its regional family medicine residency and successfully attained initial ACGME Single Accreditation for its previously AOA-accredited internal medicine and family medicine residencies. Currently, in the 2019-20 Academic Year, more than 200 learners are training with The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education across the country.

PANELISTS:

Jignesh Sheth, MD, MPH – Chief Medical Officer, SVP Clinical Operations, The Wright Center for Community Health

After completing his Internal Medicine Residency with The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education (then the Scranton-Temple Residency Program) in 2009, Dr. Sheth joined the organization as physician-faculty. Currently, Dr. Sheth leads clinical initiatives to deliver quality, non-discriminatory care to patients across Northeastern Pennsylvania. He is committed to preparing residents to succeed as nimble leaders in an ever-changing healthcare landscape. Dr. Sheth promotes team-based, patient-centered care management and aims to cultivate an inclusive culture of learning and accountability where outcomes are prevalent. He actively leads population and data management initiatives to empower patients, develop tools to address risk and help patients overcome barriers to care.

Kim Chaundy, MBA - Senior Director IT, External Customer Relations, Geisinger Health System

Kim has been a part of Geisinger since 2010, after a long tenure at Shamokin Area Community Hospital in Shamokin, PA. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Networking Administration degree, Kim began her healthcare career in patient billing, moving to a management role, and continued as the Information Technology Director and the Information Technology Performance Improvement manager for 18 years. During this time, Kim was involved in the transition from handwritten medical records to a complete electronic health record system. Today, Kim is the Senior Director of the Geisinger-led Keystone Health Information Exchange (KeyHIE), which is one of the oldest and largest operating health information exchanges in Pennsylvania, connecting over 190 healthcare organizations. Kim oversees all aspects of KeyHIE operations including, but not limited to: vendor management, daily functions and implementation projects. Kim also serves as the Director of Geisinger's IT Integration Systems Support team. Kim has been involved with KeyHIE since its inception in 2005. She spearheaded the Shamokin Hospital connection, which was the first hospital to connect to KeyHIE, and has overseen more than 243% Participant growth under her leadership. Kim recently received her Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Scranton.

Chris Carmody, MBA - SVP, Enterprise Technology and Services, UPMC, President, ClinicalConnect

Mr. Chris Carmody is the Senior Vice President of Enterprise Technology and Services at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) leading the information technology infrastructure teams, including data centers, data, voice and video networks, cybersecurity, service desk, device support, enterprise project management office, etc. which include 1,000 IT professionals and an annual budget (capital and operating) of over $250 Million. Mr. Carmody also serves as President of ClinicalConnect, Pennsylvania's largest Health Information Exchange (HIE) comprised of over 65,000 users at western Pennsylvania's leading regional health providers. In 2015, The Pittsburgh Technology Council and Greater Pittsburgh CIO Group named Chris 2015 Pittsburgh CIO of the Year.

Mr. Carmody has 24 years of experience in the IT field. Mr. Carmody has a B.A. degree in Accounting with a minor in Business Administration from Westminster College and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Information Systems Management (MS) from Robert Morris University. Mr. Carmody serves on Westminster College Board of Trustees, the Pittsburgh International Airport IT Advisory Board and Microsoft's Healthcare Advisory Board.

David Lopatofsky, MD - Chief Medical Officer, UPMC, Susquehanna Region

David Lopatofsky, MD, is the Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President for UPMC in the Susquehanna Region. He is also a family Medicine provider and oversees UPMC's medical groups in the region

VIDEOS:

Don Rucker, MD - National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Office of the National Coordinator (ONC)

Dr. Rucker comes to the ONC from the Ohio State University where he was Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine and Biomedical Informatics and Premise Health, a worksite clinic provider, where he served as Chief Medical Officer. He began his informatics career at Datamedic Corporation, where he co-developed the world's first Microsoft Windows based electronic medical record. He then served as Chief Medical Officer at Siemens Healthcare USA. Dr. Rucker led the team that designed the computerized provider order entry workflow that, as installed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, won the 2003 HIMSS Nicholas Davies Award for the best hospital computer system in the US. Dr. Rucker has served terms on the Board of Commissioners of the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology and Medicare's Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) and has extensive policy experience representing healthcare innovations before Congress, MedPAC and HHS.

He has practiced emergency medicine at Kaiser in California, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where he was the first full-time Emergency Department attending, the University of Pennsylvania's Penn Presbyterian and Pennsylvania Hospitals and at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center. Dr. Rucker is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine with board certifications in Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine and Clinical Informatics. He holds an MS in Medical Computer Science and an MBA, both from Stanford.

Erin McFadden, MD – Internal Medicine Faculty Physician, The Wright Center for Community Health, Regional Director of Medical Education, AT Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine
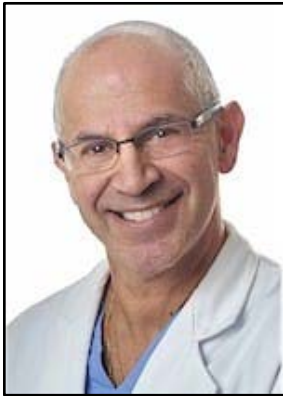
Dr. McFadden currently practices outpatient primary care at The Wright Center for Community Health in Scranton, PA. She is Co-Regional Director of Medical Education for the School of Osteopathic Medicine in AZ and, most recently, the Medical Director for the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of Lackawanna County. Dr. McFadden serves as the IPE for medical education, teaching faculty of the internal medicine residency program and is currently working to co-lead the geriatric education and delivery platform in our Geriatric fellowship. When COVID hit our area in March, she led the ESCCP (educational support and clinical coaching program) with 6 other academic institutions (University of Penn, UPMC, Penn state, Temple, Geisinger and Alleghany Health) making outreaches to over 400 personal care, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities in the Northeast region of PA to help with COVID care. Her passion is to merge clinical learning with community partnerships, among them, sharing future endeavors of the Wright Center and Visiting Nurses Association. She currently resides in Waverly Township with her two daughters Paige and Adelyn and her Labrador retriever Sierra. She enjoys spending time with her family, summers with her aunt on Elk Lake and winters skiing.

Lawrence H. Jones, MD, FACP – Penn State Health Internal Medicine Physician, Governor of the Eastern Region of the PA Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP)

Dr. Jones is a 1989 graduate of the Medical College of Pennsylvania (now Drexel University College of Medicine) and completed his residency training at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver. Following that, he was a staff internist at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital in Fort Campbell, KY. During that time, he also was deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia, as part of Operation Restore Hope. Upon completing his payback, he moved to Harrisburg and has continued his career ever since as an Assistant Professor of Medicine and a general internist at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. At Hershey, he served in a number of capacities, including as Medical Director of the Resident's Clinic and also the East Campus Internal Medicine Clinic. He has been a member of the ACP since his residency.

Saul Rigau, DO – Emergency Medicine Physician practicing in Scranton, PA

Dr. Rigau has seen it all when it comes to the trials and tribulations of EHRs that do not communicate with each other or provide the entire background of those patients who show up at his ER. Ordering additional MRIs or CAT scans when a patient had one earlier in the week, for example, not only drives up healthcare costs for everyone, it slows down proper treatment and diagnosis for those patients in front of him while delaying life-saving services for those who have to wait in line for this testing.

Tom DePietro, PharmD – Pharmacist and Small Business Owner

Owner of DePietro's Pharmacy, Tom is as committed to his customers as he is to his community. During the COVID pandemic, he stepped up in more ways than one, offering free or discounted medications to those customers left unemployed due to the pandemic. Tom shares his thoughts and insights on the need for interoperability in a pharmacy setting to allow patient care teams to seamlessly work together across the continuum of care, including prescription and medication adherence, controlled substance tracking, immunization efforts and more.

Tim Rowland – Lackawanna County Coroner and EMT

Lackawanna County Coroner, Tim Rowland, speaks to the challenges he experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges that interoperability could have alleviated from the get-go. Identifying and documenting COVID-19 deaths proved especially frustrating for this seasoned investigator, information he valiantly collected from a host of unlikely sources, including a partnership with area funeral directors.