Health Information Technology Initiative

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Steering Committee Brief
NSF FIU-FAU I/UCRC
Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement
Health Information Technology Initiative

February 6, 2010

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This document contains information concerning Florida International University (FIU), its National Science Foundation FIU-FAU Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement Health Information Technology Initiative, products and services. The FIU HIT Initiative is focused on advancing the Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records as envisioned in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (HITECH Act).
Respected Members of the Steering Committee:

Attached, please find an Executive Brief on the FIU HIT Initiative. We have been working diligently to advance our HIT Initiative co-organized with the FIU NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement (CAKE). After several months of focused activity, we have laid the “strategic foundations” to advance our mission both here in our local South Florida community and on the national scene. Our collaborators include, among others, the American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network (AAFP NRN), and the COPD Outcomes-based Network for Clinical Effectiveness and Research Translation (CONCERT) – a NIH and AHRQ funded consortium of investigators.

It gives me great pleasure to report our Center has been called upon to deliver our competencies in support of grant applications for Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER), and Transformative Research. The Transformative Research Projects Program was created under the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research to support exceptionally innovative, high risk, original and/or unconventional research projects that have the potential to create or overturn fundamental paradigms, and if successful can profoundly impact a broad area of biomedical research.

These applications, while pending, are nevertheless of strategic importance not only to the Center, but also to advance the recognition of FIU in Medicine and Medical Informatics. The caliber and credibility of our consortium, in particular those of the affiliated Principal Investigators, will allow us leverage these consortium relationships in additional activities of relevance and importance to FIU.

**Highlights**

**Pending Grant Applications**

1) Recovery Act 2009 Limited Competition: AHRQ Clinical and Health Outcomes Initiative in Comparative Effectiveness (CHOICE) Grants (R01) RFA-HS-10-003

   “Peer Based and Automated Coaching for Self Management Support in Chronic Disease”
   - Sponsor – Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)
   - Application Date – December 16th, 2009
   - Estimated Award Date – July 2010
   - Expected Start Date (assuming award) – September 2010
   - Total Budgeted Amount - $10 MM; **FIU - $2.4 MM over 3 years**
   - Consortium Lead - American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network (AAFP NRN)
   - Consortium Members - AAFP NRN, University of North Carolina, Florida International University, LANet – University of Southern California, University of California San Francisco.

2) Roadmap Transformative Research Projects Program (R01) RFA-RM-09-022

   “Developing and Implementing a National Infrastructure for Translational Research”
   - Sponsor – National Institutes of Health (NIH)
   - Application Date – January 25th, 2010
   - Estimated Award Date – September 2010
   - Expected Start Date (assuming award) – March 2011
   - Total Budgeted Amount $50 MM; **FIU- $3.9 MM over 5 years**
   - Consortium Lead - American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network (AAFP NRN)
   - Consortium Members - AAFP NRN, Florida International University, University of Chicago, University of Washington, Northwestern University, Tufts University, University of Michigan, University of Washington, Center for Healthcare Research (Kaiser), University of North Carolina, University of Minnesota, University of Utah.
FIU Practice Based Research Network (FIU PBRN)
The American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network (AAFP NRN) has established a collaborative framework with our Center. AAFP NRN is working with FIU concerning Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records, in particular, in the areas of clinical decision support, feedback reporting, and learning communities. AAFP NRN will be providing strategic guidance and support in FIU’s effort to build a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN), laying the foundations for the Patient Centered Medical Home, and advancing further, the Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records.

FIU HIT Innovations Lab (HITLAB)
The FIU Health Information Technology Innovations Laboratory (HITLAB) will provide HIPAA-compliant “infrastructure and services” to showcase HIT products and engage affiliated hospitals and ambulatory care physicians in South Florida. The Lab will also provide “workbenches” for conducting advanced research in the areas of Health Information Exchange (HIE), Data Extraction, Clinical Messaging, Clinical Data Repositories (CDR), Disease Registries, Bio-surveillance, Patient Monitoring, and Patient Communication. Additionally, in order to advance the Translation of Research into Practice (TRIP), the HITLAB will provide the infrastructure to develop clinical data management applications and collaboration tools that aid in the collection, storage, management and analysis of data from multiple sites to support the clinical, biomedical and translational research activities of the FIU PBRN, affiliated academic institutions, and Industry Members of the FIU NSF CAKE. The lab is being setup with hardware and software being acquired by the Center or contributed by leading HIT vendors.

Nationwide Health Information Network – CONNECT
The Center will be the host for the Spring 2010 Nationwide Health Information Exchange (NHIN) CONNECT Code-a-Thon organized by the Federal Health Architecture (FHA) group at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT). CONNECT is an FHA initiative to develop a federal software solution to link federal systems to the NHIN. The event will be hosted at FIU April 28th through April 29th, 2010. We expect various stakeholders from Federal Agencies and leading technology companies to participate in the event.

Inter-University Collaborative
FIU NSF CAKE is a developing a framework for building an Inter-University Collaborative to advance the objectives for Meaningful Use of EHRs through academic outreach arms of various organizations such as Open Health Tools. We are in the initial phases of forming such a collaborative starting with CMS Region 4 (which includes the state of Florida).

I must also note the enthusiastic support of Senior Executives and Physicians from our affiliated hospitals who have started to engage with our Center. It is reflective of the value the HIT Initiative brings to our local community – but it would not be possible without the national collaboration partners we have engaged through the FIU HIT Initiative. We will continue to build our national collaborative – and I am certain these early gains will lead to much larger programs that will be of strategic value to the nascent activity of FIU in Medicine and Medical Informatics.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to your participation, guidance, and consideration as we advance the HIT Initiative in support of FIU’s strategic objectives in the State of Florida and beyond.

Sincerely,

Naphtali David Rishe

the Inaugural Outstanding University Professor
Professor of Computer Science
Director, FIU High Performance Database Research Center
Director, NASA Regional Applications Center in Miami
Director, NSF FIU-FAU Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement
Director, FIU Health Information Technology Initiative
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1.2 PURPOSE
This document is intended to provide a summary of Florida International University’s HIT Initiative.

1.3 RELATED DOCUMENTS & REFERENCES
[1] Recovery Act 2009 Limited Competition: AHRQ Clinical and Health Outcomes Initiative in Comparative Effectiveness (CHOICE) Grants (R01) RFA-HS-10-003
[2] Roadmap Transformative Research Projects Program (R01) RFA-RM-09-022

1.4 AUDIENCE
This document is intended as a briefing document for the FIU HIT Initiative Steering Committee Members.

1.5 REVISION HISTORY

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2 Collaborative Efforts – Highlights

2.1 American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network (AAFP NRN)
The AAFP NRN has established a collaborative framework with the FIU Health Information Technology Initiative co-organized with the NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement (CAKE). AAFP NRN is working with FIU concerning Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records, in particular, in the areas of clinical decision support, feedback reporting, and learning communities. AAFP NRN will be providing strategic guidance and support in FIU’s effort to build a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN), laying the foundations for the Patient Centered Medical Home, and advancing further the Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records.

FIU is collaborating with the AAFP NRN as part of a consortium in response to the following Funding Opportunity Announcements:

- Roadmap Transformative Research Projects Program (R01) RFA-RM-09-022 (application submitted January 22, 2009)
- Recovery Act 2009 Limited Competition: AHRQ Clinical and Health Outcomes Initiative in Comparative Effectiveness (CHOICE) Grants (R01) RFA-HS-10-003 (application submitted December 16, 2009)

2.2 Nationwide Health Information Network - CONNECT
We will host the Spring 2010 Nationwide Health Information Exchange (NHIN) CONNECT Code-a-Thon organized by the Federal Health Architecture (FHA) group at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT). The goal is to attract application developers and advance industry-university collaboration for Health Information Exchange (HIE). The event will be hosted at FIU April 28th through April 29th, 2010. We expect various stakeholders from Federal Agencies and leading technology companies to participate in the event.

The NHIN is a collection of standards, protocols, legal agreements, specifications, and services that enables the secure exchange of health information over the internet. The NHIN is a key component of the nationwide health information technology strategy and will provide a common platform for health information exchange across diverse entities, within communities and across the country. The NHIN will enable health information to follow the consumer, be available for clinical decision making, and support appropriate use of healthcare information beyond direct patient care so as to improve public health. CONNECT is a Federal Health Architecture initiative to develop a federal software solution to link federal systems to the NHIN. The CONNECT initiative takes the NHIN specifications and creates a production-ready open-source software solution that can be adopted by both federal and private entities. CONNECT provides a full software instantiation of the NHIN specifications and services.

In conjunction with the CONNECT Code-a-Thon, FIU in partnership with AAFP NRN and Open Health Tools (OHT) will host a Code-a-Thon Challenge – a competition for university students and application developers from industry. It will showcase demonstrations for the CONNECT Universal Client. We are also planning a series of NHIN-CONNECT Executive Sessions for CIOs, CMIOs, and CMOs from our affiliated hospitals and healthcare industry in South Florida. We are currently working with the FHA to add these sessions to our regular program. There will be national and local press coverage for the event – the FHA will be announcing the FIU event at the HIMSS 2010 conference in Atlanta) HIMSS is the leading conference of the year for Health Information Technology) and follow through with bulletins from the ONCHIT-FHA. We plan to have local news coverage through our affiliates.

2.3 Inter-University Collaborative
The Center is a developing a framework for building an Inter-University Collaborative to advance the objectives for Meaningful Use of EHRs through academic outreach arms of various organizations, such as Open Health Tools. We are in the initial phases of forming such a collaborative starting with CMS Region 4 (includes Florida). FIU is playing a lead role in exploring various Funding Opportunity Announcements – ones that can bring together collaborative members as co-applicants – advancing knowledge sharing and cooperation amongst the members.
3 Pending Grant Applications – Highlights

3.1 RECOVERY ACT 2009 LIMITED COMPETITION: AHRQ CLINICAL AND HEALTH OUTCOMES INITIATIVE IN COMPARATIVE EFFECTIVENESS (CHOICE) GRANTS (R01) RFA-HS-10-003

“Peer Based and Automated Coaching for Self Management Support in Chronic Disease”

- Sponsor – Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)
- Application Date – December 16th, 2009
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- Total Budgeted Amount - $10 MM; FIU - $2.4 MM over 3 years
- Consortium Lead - American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network (AAFP NRN)
- Consortium Members - AAFP NRN, University of North Carolina, Florida International University, LANet – University of Southern California, University of California San Francisco. 2 Coordinating Center; 24 Clinical Sites.

3.1.1 Project Summary

This study will compare two approaches to providing self management support to individuals with chronic diseases in two health care systems in southern California and south Florida. The approaches include: (1) Peer Support Coaching from a trained non-professional, and (2) Automation Enhanced Peer Support Coaching with key messages delivered by automated telephone contacts supplemented by peer coaching. A third arm will offer patients a choice of the two support systems.

3.1.2 Principal Investigators / Co Investigators

Wilson Pace, MD, FAAFP
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Professor of Family Medicine
Green-Edelman Chair for Practice Based Research
University of Colorado Denver

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Naphtali David Rishe, PhD
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Director, Health Information Technology Initiative
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Acting Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine
Professor of Medicine in Residence
Director, UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations
3.2 **ROADMAP TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS PROGRAM (R01) RFA-RM-09-022**

“Developing and Implementing a National Infrastructure for Translational Research”

- **Sponsor** – National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- **Application Date** – January 25th, 2010
- **Estimated Award Date** – September 2010
- **Expected Start Date (assuming award)** – March 2011
- **Total Budgeted Amount** $50 MM; **FIU- $3.9 MM over 5 years**
- **Consortium Lead** - American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network (AAFP NRN)
- **Consortium Members** - AAFP NRN, Florida International University, University of Chicago, University of Washington, Northwestern University, Tufts University, University of Michigan, University of Washington, Center for Healthcare Research (Kaiser), University of North Carolina, University of Minnesota, University of Utah; 11 Coordinating Centers, 85 Clinical Sites

3.2.1 **Project Summary**

The NIH Roadmap Initiative strives for effective and efficient translation of research into routine care that is responsive to practicing clinicians and patients. Despite progress, uptake of many research findings into routine clinical care is slow, or the findings from efficacy trials do not translate as expected into actual practice. New approaches to the rapid translation of research finding across health care systems and settings must be found. This project will seek to bridge the chasm between care delivery information systems and research generation. The challenge of this project is to link translational projects supported by Clinical Translational Science Centers with thousands of community physicians and millions of patients to develop the first national cooperative for translational research. This system will efficiently re-use electronic clinical data while developing approaches to further the integration of disparate health care systems and data sources. We believe that with attention to the intellectual and structural infrastructure we can decrease barriers to care and improve quality and accuracy of care, while encouraging providers to participate in translational work, including through quality improvement. We propose to create a transformative research infrastructure that can exist across a broad array of clinical settings, from small ambulatory clinics to major CTSA-associated university medical centers. In short, we are attempting to change the model of how knowledge is generated, disseminated, adopted, and implemented across a representative sample of clinical settings.

3.2.2 **Principal Investigators / Co Investigators**

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4 FIU HIT Innovations Laboratory (HITLAB)

The FIU Health Information Technology Innovations Laboratory (HITLAB) will provide HIPAA-compliant “infrastructure and services” to showcase HIT products, and in addition provide “workbenches” for advanced research in the areas of Health Information Exchange (HIE), Data Extraction, Clinical Messaging, Clinical Data Repositories (CDR), Disease Registries, Bio-surveillance, Patient Monitoring, and Patient Communication.

4.1 Utility

The utility of the HITLAB is to:

- Enable Industry Members of the FIU NSF CAKE the ability to showcase HIT products and services, and conduct sponsored research in collaboration with the FIU Faculty and Staff.

- Provide Advisory and Infrastructure Support Services to our Affiliated Hospitals and Physicians in the deployment, support, and maintenance of their EHR implementations.

- Develop technologies that advance Translation of Research into Practice (TRIP). In line with that objective, the HITLAB will provide the infrastructure to develop clinical data management applications and collaboration tools that aid in the collection, storage, management and analysis of data from multiple sites to support the clinical, biomedical and translational research activities of the FIU PBRN, affiliated academic institutions, and Industry Members of the FIU NSF CAKE.

4.2 Operating Model

There are five key requirements for Meaningful Use of EHRs:

1. Setting the right EHR goals
2. Purchasing the right product
3. Right implementation
4. Right use of EHRs by caregivers
5. Delivering the right outcomes with the EHR product

In order to meet these requirements, and in support of the larger objectives of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, the HITLAB will facilitate five specific areas of activity under the larger umbrella of the FIU HIT Initiative and the FIU PBRN.

4.2.1 Advisory Services Group

A specialized group of technical experts and business analysts, advisory services, and curriculum focused on the objectives of the HITECH Act. This group will implement solutions and services across five arms of activity:

1. Develop and support training programs in HIT for local community physicians, clinics, hospitals, and care system stakeholders with emphasis on the Meaningful Use of EHRs including, but not limited to, Workflow Re-Design, Data Handling, Privacy & Security, Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE), Patient Communication, and Reporting to Public Health Agencies.

2. Establish cooperative business agreements with EHR vendors and create a demonstration capability for EHR products from certified vendors and developing Practice Evaluation Studies for HIT implementations.

3. Educate community physicians regarding capital funding options and government reimbursements as currently defined in the ARRA. Additionally, the group will help physicians understand the cash flow ramifications and practical trade-offs using different software delivery models - ASP, SaaS, and Client/Server.

4. Project management services – including but not limited to gap analysis, monitoring of performance metrics in EHR implementations – from “on-ramp” to “reporting on quality measures”.

5. Develop long-term contracts with clinics to provide information technology services.

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2 HITECH — Stimulus Act of 2009: CSC Point of View, April 2009
4.2.2 Product Development Group
The group will consist of a multi-stakeholder team of developers and product managers to build, maintain, and manage EHR products. The initial focus of the activity will be “gap fill” products to address the community needs for meeting the full requirements of meaningful use. These “gap fill” products will focus on the use of open source technologies, and be complementary to existing EHR products provided by the FIU NSF CAKE Industry Members.

4.2.3 Field Deployment Group
A team of deployment experts including, but not limited to FIU staff, collaboration partners from other academic institutions, and solutions providers who will be certified by the Center.

4.2.4 Infrastructure Services & Support Group
Dedicated computing infrastructure for hosting and managing secure and private clouds for use in various project initiatives – managed services for HIT products.

4.2.5 Research Group
A team of academic researchers, FIU affiliated clinicians, public health experts, and healthcare industry partners brought together to participate and collaborate in research activities, including sponsored research on behalf on our FIU NSF CAKE Industry Members. This group will be also be developing “workbenches” for clinical data management in support of our pending grant applications, including Comparative Effectiveness Research and Translational Science Research.

4.3 INFRASTRUCTURE BUILD-OUT
We have allocated space in the ECS building and have started the requisition process for workstations. We are also in detailed discussions with several FORTUNE 100 companies, who have started to engage with the FIU NSF CAKE to conduct Industry Sponsored Research. As part of these sponsored research activities, we expect donations of hardware, software, and medical devices used in support of telemedicine, including home-monitoring and patient communication tools.
5 Strategic Foundations - FIU Practice Based Research Network (FIU PBRN)

Given the progress with our initiatives and the resulting collaborations over the past several months, and in light of the larger objectives for our community physicians in South Florida, the FIU HIT Initiative is forming a Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN). We believe the FIU PBRN will help us reach out to our community physicians and engage them in meaningful ways to achieve the benefits of the transformation made possible by technology. As such, going forward, we will stage our current activities under the umbrella of the FIU PBRN, with technology as one component, and as a means to an end – Quality Improvement and better outcomes in primary care.

The AAFP NRN will provide guidance and support to the FIU PBRN. We expect our relationship with the AAFP NRN to be one of the important building blocks for our FIU PBRN and advancing FIU initiatives in the State of Florida.

5.1 Mission Statement

To advocate, enable, conduct, and promote translational research in practice-based settings that addresses questions of significance to the discipline of family medicine, and advances the Patient Centered Medical Home.

5.2 Goals

- Enhance Translational Research capabilities in Ambulatory Care Settings
- Advance Evidence-Based Practice Model
- Improve quality of care by enabling better decision support at point of care
- Develop programs for supporting Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER)
- Create technology platforms for advancing the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)

5.3 Governance

The FIU PBRN governance may be summarized as follows:

- Director/Co-Director
- Clinical Director with expertise in Primary Care / Family Medicine – ambulatory setting
- Scientific Committee comprised of community experts across a spectrum of knowledge including practitioners in ambulatory care settings, affiliated hospitals, academic community, public health, and community health centers
- Membership Committee
- Patient Advocacy Board
- Advisory Board (includes nationally recognized experts from academia and industry)

Our current FIU PBRN planning activities include setting up the HITLAB, recruiting a Clinical Director, member physicians and clinics, and seeking qualified candidates for the various committees. On parallel tracks we are recruiting a nationally recognized slate of advisors.

We will be announcing additional details including the FIU PBRN governance slate in March 2010. We plan to “unveil” the FIU PBRN during the NHIN-CONNECT Code-a-Thon in April 2010.