

TATRC Expands its Role at DHITS 2017

The 2017 Defense Health IT Symposium (DHITS) conference took place in Orlando, FL from 25-27 July. VADM Raquel Bono, Director, Defense Health Agency, opened up this year's conference with a call to "use health IT to better serve patients." The 3-day annual conference pulled together over 2,000 military medicine providers and IT professionals under the unifying message of "One Team, One Mission - Creating Our Future Together."

VADM Bono conveyed that the time has come to start the next chapter of Military Health System (MHS). "Health IT is providing us with more real-time information to better manage patient care." With the mammoth deployment of the new DoD electronic health record system, MHS Genesis, finally underway, this year's conference reflected a mood of eager anticipation of moving forward into this new era of MHS. Per VADM Bono, "Health IT is one of the foundational enterprise support activities. There is not another support function that touches everything we do. Combined with an enterprise approach to cybersecurity, the MHS can be a national leader of more connected and interoperable health care."

TATRC's Director, COL Dan Kral, had identified DHITS as a target-rich opportunity to introduce MHS to TATRC's expanded portfolio of projects that have been aligned to meet future state Military Medicine needs. "DHITS provides us one of the better opportunities to share our ideas, form new collaborations, and conduct the necessary azimuth checks critical to long-term research," said Kral.

This was reflected in TATRC's larger footprint in both the exhibit hall and on the program agenda. Team TATRC was prominently featured within the DHA Exhibit Booth and had 3 separate kiosks this year, covering Direct & Bene-

ficiary Care Research Areas, TATRC's AMEDD Advanced Medical Technology Initiative (AAMTI) Program and our expanded Virtual Health Research work, covering initiatives in both the Mobile Health Innovation Center (mHIC) and the new Virtual Health Support Office.

TATRC's Deputy Director, Mr. Tim McCarthy, stated, "Conferences like the Defense Health IT Symposium are a unique opportunity. DHITS is an exciting time of year to meet with our partners throughout the MHS community to, proverbially, sync our watches. As a research lab, our inherent role is to anticipate military medicine's far-forward technical needs, and the best way to do that is with clear, unencumbered, communication. To look at the collective MHS landscape and to take measure of the directions that our partners, and MEDCOM customers, are heading."

TATRC's presence was not only reflected on the tradeshow floor. COL Kral, as well as members of mHIC and the Health Technology Innovation Center (HTIC), each made presentations during scheduled breakout sessions. Ms. Ollie Gray, HTIC's Lab Manager, joined TATRC partner, and Director for Informatics Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, COL John Scott to provide an overview on the Team Fitness Tracker, Joint Legacy Viewer Linked Problem List, and the SBIR on Virtual Medical Concierge. mHIC's Deputy Lab Manager, Mr. Ron Yeaw, combined elements of both mHIC and Operational Telemedicine's portfolio to give an overview of current and future virtual health capabilities for the battlefield. In two separate, joint sessions COL Kral and mHIC Lab Manager, Ms. Jeanette Little, outlined a possible future state for military medicine with a specific focus on the 'Why' of military medicine. Per the Director, "so much of what you often see at conferences is focused on the 'what' and the 'how'. But what

is critical, however, is the 'why' ... and that is what we [got] after participating this year at DHITS."


For HTIC Engineer Mr. Bob Connors, the biggest take away this year was the breakthrough emergences of numerous key enabling technologies that TATRC had its eye on for several years. Specifically, "It was interesting to hear VADM Bono mention 'Blockchain' several times during her presentation. We had initiated research in this area, so it sort of validated that we were on the right track." Lead mHIC Project Officer, Mr. Robert Chewning was most appreciative of the opportunity to reengage previous mHIC customers in person. "mHIC is always looking for proponents to push MHCE / mCare forward into Operational use and we had the opportunity to do just that with Mr. Michael Mobley, the CIO for the Army Warrior



Team TATRC gathers together in our expanded section of the MHS booth at this year's DHITS Conference.

Care and Transition System (AWCTS). Mr. Mobley's team was aware of mCare, had it installed on his phone, but never actually used it. We discovered during his conversation with Ms. Little that he has a need to introduce a mobile component for AWCTS and we are actively working with him now to see how we can utilize mCare to bridge his gap."

TATRC Marketing Director, Ms. Lori DeBernardis tracked TATRC's presence at DHITS on social media across the conference, ensuring TATRC's colleagues, alumni and external partners a front row seat for MHS's largest, and most vibrant, conference of the year. "The opportunity to get everyone in the MHS IT community together in one space like this is rare, so our team worked hard to get out and capture as much as possible for our social media presence. Sometimes it's all about the *one* connection, and my guys work hard to maximize the opportunity of that moment for TATRC."

The 2018 DHITS conference will be back in Orlando, from 24 – 26 July and we hope to see you there! 



HTIC Lab Manager, Ollie Gray, discusses the Linked Problem List & Team Fitness Tracker projects with DHA Director, VADM Bono at DHITS 2017.