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TATRC AWARDS SECOND PHASE OF NETCCN TO SCALE TELE-CRITICAL CARE FOR COVID-19 SURGE

Telemedicine Project Quickly Extends Critical Care Expertise Where It's Needed Most to Combat COVID-19

For Immediate Release – April 20, 2021

The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command's (USAMRDC) Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) has awarded additional funds to four clinical-technical teams in support of the second phase of its National Tele-Critical Care Network (NETCCN) project.

Based on cellular communication networks, mobile technologies and cloud computing, NETCCN teams consist of critical care clinicians and technology partners who are collaboratively developing cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management systems for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable "virtual critical care wards." These rapidly available, high acuity virtual wards bring high-quality critical care capability to nearly every bedside, be it healthcare facilities, field hospitals, or other locations that lack adequate critical care expertise and resources necessary for the care of severe COVID-19 illnesses.

To date, NETCCN teams have delivered tele-critical care for hundreds of COVID-19 patients in hospitals and at home in assistance of healthcare organizations in Iowa, Guam, Minnesota, North Dakota, Puerto Rico and South Dakota. Phase 2 of NETCCN funds the rapid expansion of NETCCN capacity and flexibility.

"As part of local surge responses, the limiting resource is critical care expertise. There are simply not enough critical care nurses and doctors across the country. NETCCN addresses this by making virtual critical care doctors, nurses and other experts available when and where they are needed most, without additional hardware and in places with limited connectivity," said COL Jeremy Pamplin, a critical care physician and TATRC's Director.

Specifically, Phase 2 funds the NETCCN teams to:

- COORDINATE across teams, platforms and care models developed and validated in Phase 1 into a system of systems in order to
- SUSTAIN AND SCALE OPERATIONS for COVID-19 support services and research; and to
- REFINE, ENHANCE AND INTEGRATE additional capabilities such as patient monitoring and remote control of medical devices into the NETCCN systems.

“Phase 1 of NETCCN developed and refined tele-critical care platforms and models of care and demonstrated that low cost, instantly available telemedicine platforms represent a key asset in extending critical care expertise where it’s needed. Phase 2 expands NETCCN’s capabilities, capacity and impact in support of our frontline caregivers in the battle against COVID-19,” added Ms. Jeanette Little, TATRC’s Digital Health Innovation Center Director and NETCCN Project Lead.

NETCCN is funded through The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (HHS/ASPR) and USAMRDC.

For more information about NETCCN, including how clinicians and other caregivers can volunteer to deliver care and how healthcare organizations can request support from NETCCN, please visit:

<https://www.tatrc.org/netccn/>.

About TATRC:

U.S. Army's Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center's (TATRC) is engaged in essential medical research focused on advanced medical technologies and is dedicated to bringing innovative telehealth solutions to the Warfighter and the Military Health System. TATRC fosters research on health informatics, telemedicine / m-Health, medical training systems and computational biology to address gaps in DoD medical research programs and military healthcare.

For more information on TATRC, please visit: <https://www.tatrc.org>.