



News Release:

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TATRC Awards Project to Apply Learning from Tele-Critical Care during COVID-19 to Future Disasters and Combat Casualty Care

Project Establishes Continuous Learning System for Incorporating Telehealth and Other Technologies in Disaster Healthcare Support

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The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command's (USAMRDC) Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) has awarded a total of approximately \$2.3M in funding through the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to the Indiana University's Luddy School of Informatics, Computing & Engineering to accelerate the availability and application of insights from the use of tele-critical care through the National Emergency Tele-Critical Care Network (NETCCN) and other technologies in support of civilian and military disaster and mass casualty events.

This first-of-its-kind project will bring together TATRC, NETCCN performers, other federal entities such as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) with military stakeholders such as the Army's Virtual Medical Center, Joint Tele-Critical Care Network, the Medical Capabilities Development and Integration Division (MedCDID), Combatant Commands (COCOMS), and the Defense Health Agency's Joint Trauma System to establish a core set of performance measures that can be tracked and improved from disaster to disaster and from disaster care to large scale combat operations.

"Rapidly developing and deploying NETCCN into the U.S. healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic has given us a window into the promise and challenges of using technology in disaster environments. We knew we needed to work with a world-class team like the one at Indiana University to build a system that informs future disaster and combat care, especially at scale," said COL Jeremy Pamplin, TATRC's Director.

TATRC's NETCCN project consists of networks of critical care clinicians and providers that can deliver virtual care "from anywhere to anywhere" through the use of cloud-based, low-resource telemedicine platforms. Initial deployment of the NETCCN has supported several hospitals and other facilities in Guam, Puerto Rico, Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas, and is expanding availability to assist wherever there is a lack of adequate critical care expertise and resources necessary to care for COVID-19 patients. The HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response established a 4-year-partnership and funding to adapt and incorporate TATRC's NETCCN program as a component of national disaster response for both COVID-19 as well as hurricanes, wildfires, and other emergencies and disasters.

“Adding NETCCN and other potential future technologies to our portfolio of national response capabilities requires us to be able to assess and measure their impact. We’re excited to work closely with TATRC on this project,” said Joe Lamana, NDMS at HHS/ASPR.

The team from Indiana University will begin working with TATRC and other key military stakeholders in the coming weeks to begin establishment of performance measures, to identify and to prioritize, conduct and implement research activities that seek to understand the challenges and impact of technology on disaster medicine. TATRC and its partners expect to host a future “Technology in Disaster Environments” workshop in the next year to share research findings and gain feedback on future research opportunities.

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>.