PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Standards & Interoperability Task Force

February 27, 2015

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**Panel 1:**

*Bob Dieterle, esMD Initiative Coordinator*

*Jitin Asnaani, athenahealth*

*Larry Garber, Reliant Medical Group*

*Margaret Donahue, Veterans Health Administration*

**Jitin Asnaani** is on a mission to commoditize health information exchange.

In 2010 Jitin was appointed to the [Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC)](http://www.healthit.gov/), where he helped incubate and launch the [S&I Framework](http://siframework.org/), growing the program to over 1,100 members representing 350+ public and private sector organizations. He also lead several specific S&I Framework initiatives, notably the S&I Lab Results Interfaces (LRI) initiative, the S&I Provider Directories (PD) initiative, and [The Direct Project](http://directproject.org/content.php?key=overview).

Subsequent to his ONC appointment Jitin joined [athenahealth](http://www.athenahealth.com/), where he was Director of Product Innovation, focused on building the company’s cloud-based interoperability platform and population health services. Over the last year, Jitin has built athenahealth’s Technology Standards and Policy (TSP) capability, through which he drives and advocates for increased HIT interoperability and, more importantly, real-world interoperation. In particular, he is an active member of the [CommonWell Health Alliance](http://www.commonwellalliance.org/) and the [Argonaut Project](http://www.hl7.org/documentcenter/public_temp_893FFB16-1C23-BA17-0C2619E517A67935/pressreleases/HL7_PRESS_20141204.pdf), and coordinates athenahealth’s participation in other government- and community-driven interoperability activities.

Jitin has a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science & Engineering from MIT and a Master’s in Business Administration from Harvard Business School.

**Larry Garber, M.D.** is a practicing Internist and the Medical Director for Informatics at Reliant Medical Group (formerly known as Fallon Clinic), a 525-provider multispecialty group practice. He is a board-certified Clinical Informaticist and has had decades of experience and success in health information technology.

Dr. Garber is acting-Chair of the Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative’s Executive Committee, a member of the Massachusetts State Health Information Technology Council, and has been a member of ONC Policy Committee’s Health Information Technology Interoperability Workgroup, Privacy & Security Tiger Team, and Jason Task Force. He has been Principal Investigator on $3.5 Million AHRQ and HHS/ONC grants to develop innovative Health Information Exchanges. Dr. Garber also co-chaired the ONC S&I Framework Longitudinal Coordination of Care Workgroup which used an evidence-based approach to update the HL7 Consolidated CDA to better meet the needs of care transitions and care planning.

**Margaret Donahue, MD** joined the VA and Health Solutions Management in December 2013 as a Clinical Informaticist within the Collaboration Section. Eager to learn and become involved, and because of her background in enterprise deployment, Dr. Donahue was assigned to work on projects such as Virtual Lifetime Electronic Records (VLER), Initial Operating Capability (IOC) for interoperability deployment, and broader interoperability-related tasks as part of Health Solution Management’s outreach and clinical advisory engagements. As a result of her successful work in these areas, she became a permanent leader in the Interoperability Office in support of Dr. Theresa Cullen, VA’s Chief Medical Informatics Officer.

Dr. Donahue is a board certified Family Physician with subspecialty certification in Clinical Informatics. She has a 14-year history of healthcare IT and operational management experience. She worked at Unity Health System in Rochester, NY for 25 years both as a Family Physician and informatician, most recently in the role of Chief Medical Information Officer. She created and led the Clinical Informatics division of the health system and was responsible for the implementation and support of 3 electronic medical record systems (ambulatory, hospital, and long term care) - as well as the interoperability platform connecting them. She has extensive knowledge of both the NextGen and Cerner EMRs and is a credentialed EPIC trainer. She was also a six-year member of the Rochester RHIO Management Committee, participating in the vendor selection process and implementation of the RHIO to a 13 county area.

**Panel 2:**

*Brian Behlendorf, Mithril Capital Management*

*Justin Richer, MITRE Corporation*

**Brian Behlendorf** is Managing Director at Mithril Capital Management in San Francisco. His career has been a mix of technology start-up, public policy, and non-profit tech leadership. Brian serves on the Boards of the Mozilla Foundation, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and Benetech, three organizations using technology to fight for civil liberties, open technologies, and social impact in the digital domain. Prior to Mithril, Brian was Chief Technology Officer at the World Economic Forum. In 2009 he served at the White House as advisor to the Open Government project within the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and then in 2010 as advisor to the Department of Health and Human Services on open source software approaches to health information sharing on the CONNECT initiative and Direct Project. Before that he has founded two tech companies (CollabNet and Organic) and a number of Open Source software projects (notably Apache and Subversion).

**Justin Richer** is a systems architect, software engineer, standards editor, and service designer with over fifteen years of industry experience in a wide variety of domains including internet security, collaboration, usability, and serious games. As an active member of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and OpenID Foundation (OIDF) he has directly contributed to a number of foundational security protocols including OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect 1.0, as well as being the editor of several extensions of OAuth 2.0 including Dynamic Client Registration and Token Introspection which are on track to become published RFCs in the IETF. His pioneering work with Vectors of Trust and Dynamic Trust Frameworks have pushed the conversation of what a trusted identity means in an unpredictable landscape. He is the founder and maintainer of the enterprise-focused MITREid Connect open source implementation of OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect and has led production deployment of the system at a number of organizations including The MITRE Corporation and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. An accomplished and confident presenter, he is much sought-after as a plenary and keynote speaker at conferences around the world to audiences of all technical proficiencies. An ardent proponent of open standards and open source, he believes in solving hard problems with the right solution, even if that solution still needs to be invented.

**Panel 3:**

*Thomas Sparkman, American Clinical Laboratory Association*

*Walter Suarez, Kaiser Permanente*

*Clem McDonald, National Institute of Health*

**Thomas Sparkman** currently serves as Vice President, Government Relations, for the American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA), a position he has held since March 2013. In this role, Mr. Sparkman serves as an advocate for ACLA clinical laboratory members, which include national independent labs, reference lab, esoteric labs, hospital labs, and nursing home laboratories. Mr. Sparkman also assists the ACLA membership in development of policy and strategy for various federal programs, including with ACLA’s Health Information Technology Data Standards Committee.

Prior to joining ACLA, Mr. Sparkman was a senior lobbyist at a top lobbying firm in Washington, representing biotech and medical device innovators, hospitals and other providers, in addition to other clients. Mr. Sparkman has also held positions with the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, in addition to practicing as a pharmacist in Northern Virginia for over a decade. He holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Rutgers University, a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University, and a Juris Doctor from American University. He is currently licensed as a pharmacist in Virginia and an Associate Member of the Virginia State Bar.

**Walter G. Suarez, MD, MPH** is a physician and a public health and medical information systems specialist, and the Executive Director of Health IT Strategy and Policy for Kaiser Permanente, where he is responsible for facilitating the development of Kaiser Permanente’s internal and external Health IT-related policy positions and providing national and international policy input on health IT-related domains, including standards for electronic health records and health administrative processes, information technology architectures, clinical models, privacy and security, and health information exchanges on behalf of Kaiser Permanente.

Before joining Kaiser, Dr. Suarez was the President and CEO of the Institute for HIPAA/HIT Education and Research. Prior to this he was the CEO of the Midwest Center for HIPAA Education and before that the Executive Director and CEO of the Minnesota Health Data Institute. He also worked for the Minnesota Department of Health in various senior policy positions.

In 2009, Dr. Suarez was appointed by the US Secretary of Health and Human Services to the prestigious National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), where he co-chairs the Sub-Committee on Standards and is a member of the Population Health and the Privacy and Security Sub-Committees. He is also a past member of HIT Standards Committee (HITSC) of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, and co-chaired the HITSC Privacy and Security Workgroup. Dr. Suarez is also an active member of several national and international organizations, including Founding President and Member of the Board of Directors of the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC); the Executive Board of the Joint Public Health Informatics Task Force (JPHITF); CDC’s BioSense 2.0 Governance Board, and Member of several National and International Standards Development Organizations, including Health Level 7 (HL7), X12 and ISO TC215 Health Informatics.