# International Telemedicine and eHealth: Transforming Systems of Care in the Global Community

**Nepal March 2010** 

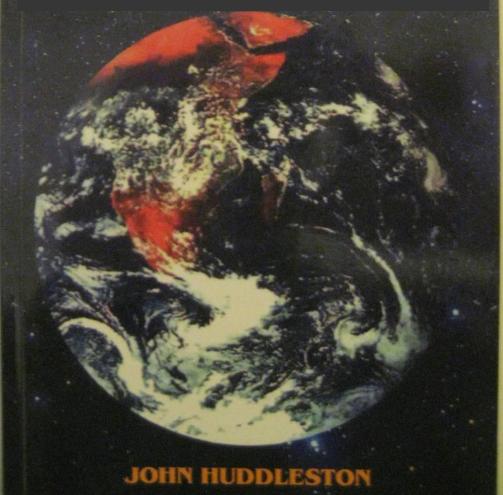


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Alverson, MD
Center for

Center for Telehealth and Cybermedicine Research

# THE EARTH IS BUT ONE COUNTRY

**And Mankind Its Citizens** 



### The Potential

- Telehealth and e-health are providing a means to transform systems of care throughout the world, providing greater access to clinical service and consultation, as well as sharing knowledge, education, training and local capacity building.
- Leap-frogging over prior barriers, these information and communication technologies (ICT) also have the potential to offer greater access to these services in developing countries.
- The use of telehealth must be put in the context of the critical health needs in each country, cultural perspectives, current and future communication infrastructure, other supportive resources, and likelihood for sustainability.

## The Potential

- Fundamental steps in addressing global health issues include reducing poverty; improving education and health promotion strategies; ensuring access to clean water; and investment in sustainable waste removal and renewable energy programs.
- The mounting concerns related to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the re-emergence of tuberculosis, increasing issues related to hepatitis C, malaria and the threat of pandemic influenza, all highlight the importance and value of telehealth and international collaboration.

## Defining Telemedicine and Telehealth

- "Tele-" comes from the Greek root word meaning "distant or remote"/ "at a distance".
  - Tele-phone
  - Tele-vision
  - Tele-graph
  - Tele-scope
  - Tele-Etc, etc, etc

## Value of Telehealth

- Using Information, Communication Technologies:
  - Transform systems of care
  - More Efficient Distribution of Limited Resources
  - Increase access and close gaps in health disparities
  - Share knowledge, experience and best practices
  - Increase healthcare workforce
  - Improve health and wellness
  - Decrease costs

## How will the Enhanced Telehealth Grid be used?

- Clinical
- Educational
- Research
- Administrative
- Health Information Exchange
- Enhanced Disaster Response

#### Center for Telehealth and Cybermedicine Research



#### **Telehealth Networks**

Rural/Remote Health Providers Can Access Expert Medical Opinions, Knowledge, Education via Telehealth

Patient Student High-Resolution Images & Video

Local Health

**Telehealth** Network

Audio

Consultation **Direct Patient Care Case Reviews Education Training Health Information Exchange Community-Based Research** 

**Specialty Medical Center** 

> Medical **Specialist**

### Case Reviews or Consultation



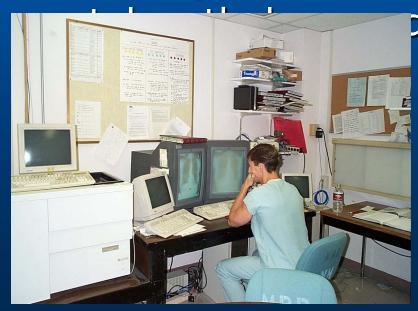
## Direct Patient Care

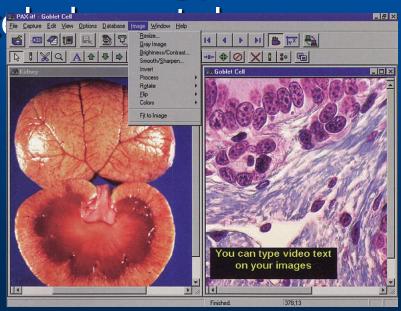


Maternal Fetal Medicine-High Risk Pregnancy

## "Store and Forward"

- Capturing an image and storing it to then be forwarded for review by a medical specialists
- Examples include teleradiology,





Teleradiology and Image Transfer

Web-Based Portals

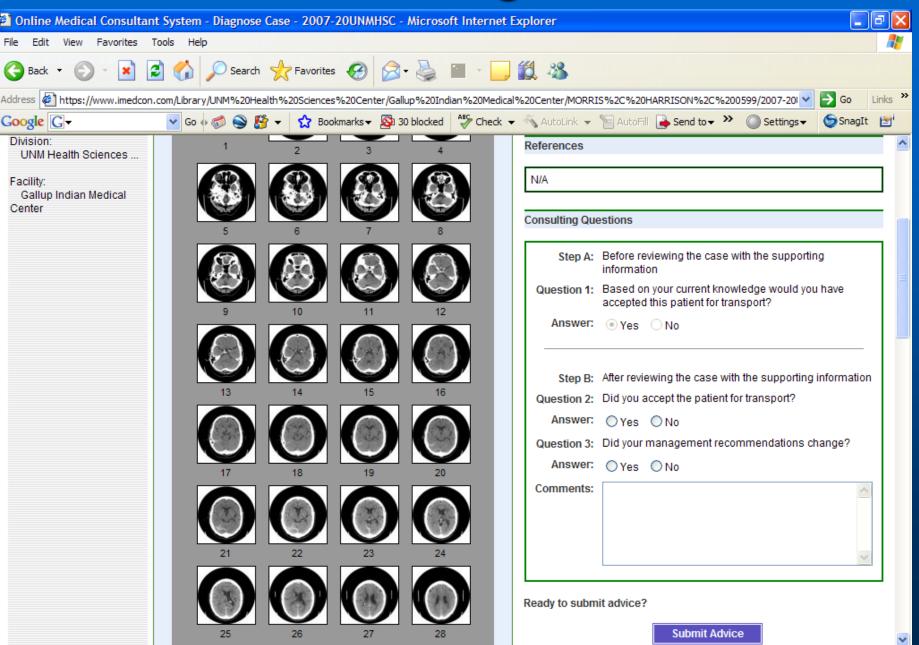
#### Family Visitation: Video Phone and VOIP



### School Based Health Centers



## Trauma Triage



## World braces for flu siege



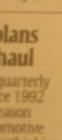
detain two security guards in connection with missing Alabama teenager Natalee Holloway, who was on a high school graduation trip # 3A



Married Mineter Ad

#### Breakfast Club' at 20

om the 1985 movie reunite for ATV Movie Awards, including An-Michael Hall, left, Molly Ringwald, eedy and Paul Gleason 20





#### ury to resume deliberating

ters aren't expecting a fast werder in Mite melectation case. Meanwhile, pop star rem's more by back position. 3A.

#### ase gets narrower focus

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Scrushy panel told to try again

## Quick action may stop global bird flu epidemic

THAILIE S SHAQUINE O PECAL



Many animals destroyed: A health officer collects ducks to be killed at a farm north of Bargkok last year.

Millions may die if H5N1 virus spreads, agency says

quickly, and the world is not yet prepared to take advantage of it, researchers say, Rich countries are stockpoling anti-viral drugs, but there is little available in the improvement by flackwaters of Southeast

## U.S. ster up nuke detection at ports

Critics say money to buy faulty mor

By Mimi Hall USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The federal government is stepping up efforts to stop terrorists from unuggling nuclear or radiological material into the USA, even as critics fault it for poor planning and outdated exactment.

The government is spending bandreds of militons of dollars to screen more cargo at the nation's ports, test need generation radiation detectors and develop natricate plans to back deadly weapons if they are

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Es transmitido por el Mosquito

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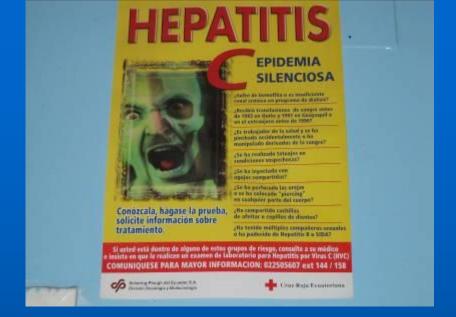
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**ACCAMENES** 







International
Union
Against TB

## Distributed Medical Intelligence

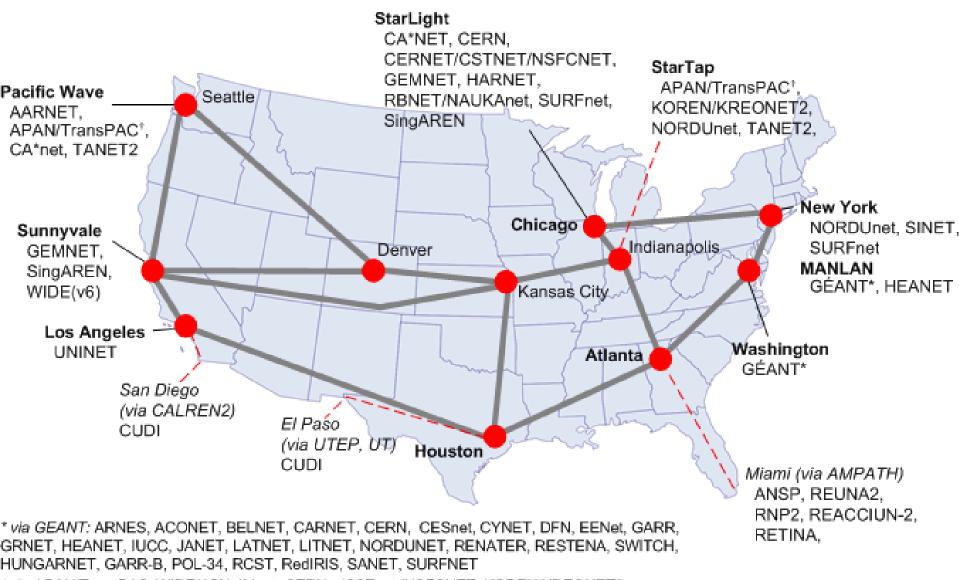
Knowledge SharingNetworks/Just inTime/On Demand

Best Practices

Evidence based

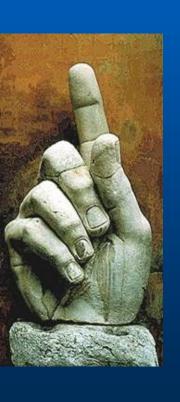


#### Abilene International Network Peers



\* via APAN/TransPAC: WIDE/JGN, IMnet, CERNet/CSTnet,/NSFCNET, KOREN/KREONET2, PREGINET, SingAREN, TANET2, ThaiSARN

## Programa Nacional de Telemedicina Ecuadoriana







Cámara Polycom

E. Satelital 256 kbps

Cámara Polycom



#### San Cristóbal, Galápagos

1350 Km.

#### UTE



#### NUEVO ROCAFUERTE

850 Km.



## **Hand Held Devices**

"mHealth"



**BlackBerry** 



Treo/Palm

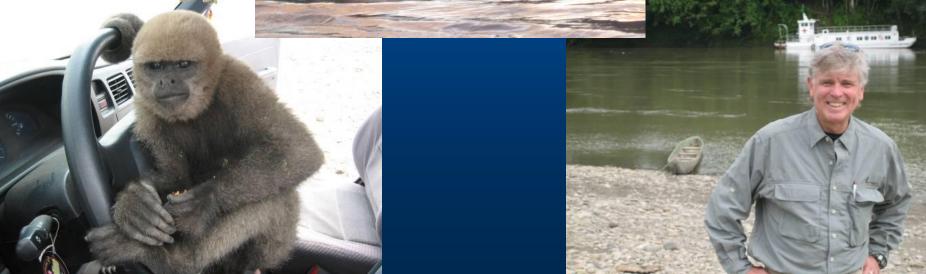


**iPhone** 



# La Lancha Medica en la Amazonia









## Other Critical Concepts

 Preventive Medicine and Integrating Community Health Workers/Promotores de Salud

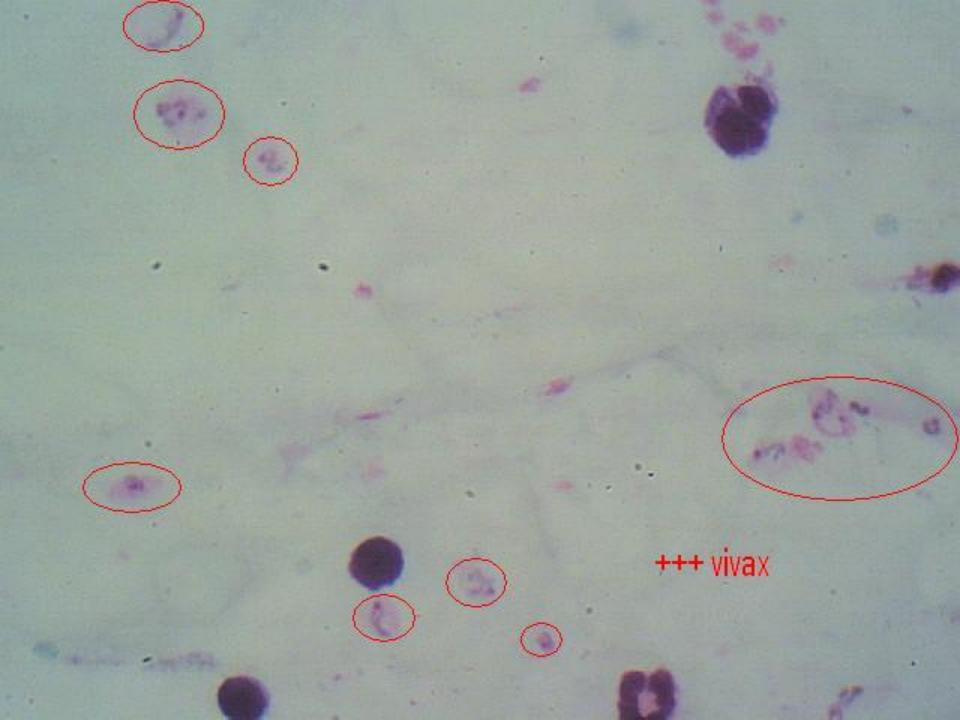






















**Exchange of Students and Faculty** 













## Next Steps

- Develop potential new telehealth services that meet needs as defined in each country that utilizes an expanding international network of networks.
- Emerging new information technologies, wireless systems and handheld devices can provide complimentary systems for global connected health and cultural exchange.
- These approaches will provide platforms for sharing knowledge and best practices that can be realistically customized to the needs of each country based upon existing resources and future potential improvements in their healthcare systems and ICT infrastructure.

## Next Steps

- Additional efforts should focus upon provision of access to affordable educational and training materials, as well as electronic journals. As needed, multilingual materials and modes of communication should be provided.
- Lastly, recognition of traditional healing practices should be integrated that build upon unique cultural perspectives related to holistic health and wellness.





#### ATA

- The American Telemedicine Association (ATA), http://www.americantelemed.org, has also developed a Web-based International Telemedicine Resource Center designed to facilitate links to several international programs, addressing telehealth initiatives in a host of countries.
- The ATA international resource center offers an expanding inventory of international telehealth programs, as well as provides a point of contact for promoting coordination and awareness of these projects, as well as a platform for improved relations between developed and developing countries, that is a forum for health diplomacy.

### Conclusions

- ICT applications to healthcare called telehealth, eHealth, mHealth, or overall "connected health", offer the opportunity to transform systems of care in profound ways that can improve the health and wellness of children and their families in the global community, at individual, community and population levels.
- These approaches can improve access to care, education, training, sharing knowledge, and health research throughout the world in culturally appropriate ways that address fundamental needs, as well as specific unique health needs of each country.

### Conclusions

Ultimately telehealth can improve local capacity to manage health and wellness, improving the quality of life of all people through partnerships by

"thinking globally but acting locally."







# Questions?





http://hsc.unm.edu/som/telehealth

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