



## Message From Our Leadership

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Department of Defense (DoD)/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Interagency Program Office's (IPO) quarterly bulletin, *The IPO Bridge*! Inside this issue, we recognize our Chief Medical Information Officers (CMIOs) for receiving the Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems (AMDIS) Award, showcase our presentations at the 2017 Defense Health Information Technology Symposium (DHITS), and highlight a few of our recent activities and accomplishments, such as our semi-annual Strategic Offsite meeting where we reviewed our FY17 priorities and began efforts to plan for the year ahead. Thank you for your unwavering support while we continue to enhance health data interoperability for the DoD and VA's electronic health record (EHR) modernization efforts.

Lastly, September 1 marks the retirement of Captain Hung Trinh following 30 years of service to the U.S. Public Health Service. Most recently, CAPT Trinh served as the Co-Lead and Chief Engineer of the IPO's Interagency Coordination Division, providing guidance and oversight as the DoD and VA enhance their interoperability and modernization efforts. We commend CAPT Trinh's accomplishments to support the unique healthcare needs of our military heroes. *Thank you, CAPT Trinh, we wish you the best in your future endeavors.* If you have feedback or questions, please contact [dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil).



Lauren C. Thompson, Ph.D.  
Director, DoD/VA IPO



John Short  
Acting Deputy Director, DoD/VA IPO

## IPO's Semi-Annual Strategic Offsite

In mid-July, the IPO hosted its semi-annual Strategic Offsite meeting to discuss our FY17 accomplishments and refine our priorities and milestones for the upcoming fiscal years. During the opening remarks, Dr. Thompson and Mr. Short emphasized the importance of the IPO's role as the Departments continue their EHR modernization efforts. Our guest speakers were Mr. James MacStravic, who was performing the duties of Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and serves as the IPO Executive Committee co-chair, and Ms. Ricci Mulligan, the Acting Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of the VA's Office of Information and Technology. Both speakers shared progress on the DoD and VA's EHR modernization efforts, as well as guidance and expectations for the way ahead, leading to better health outcomes for our service members, veterans, and their families. Ms. Genevieve Morris, the Principal Deputy National Coordinator for Health IT, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), provided the closing remarks on the last day of the event, addressing nationwide health IT efforts and the ongoing need for collaboration to ensure our beneficiaries receive the best care available.



## 2017 AMDIS Award



In June, the IPO's CMIOs, Dr. Steven Kator, M.D., and Lt Col Norman Stone, M.D., received the AMDIS Award at the 2017 AMDIS Physician-Computer Connection Symposium in Ojai, California. In this dual role, the CMIOs provide clinical expertise and cross-support specialized resources for the DoD and VA's adoption of and contribution to national health data standards. The award recognizes Dr. Kator and Dr. Stone's outstanding achievements in the field of applied medical informatics. With more than 30 years of service in the medical field, Dr. Kator is a general internist and an electrical engineer. He completed his residency at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center and served at the U.S. Army's Fort Carson, following which he joined the VA as a primary care provider and compensation and pension examiner. Along with his role at IPO, Dr. Stone serves as a Staff Orthopaedic Surgeon with the U.S. Air Force. He also volunteered with the Kids First Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery Relief Missions in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, a mission group dedicated to serving those in need of orthopaedic care. Click [here](#) to learn more about AMDIS.

## DoD/VA Modernization Status Offsite

In August, the IPO and Program Executive Office, Defense Healthcare Management Systems (PEO DHMS) co-hosted the DoD/VA Modernization Status Offsite meeting to provide updates on the Departments' modernization efforts, technical challenges, and joint capabilities. The event included opening remarks and introductions by Ms. Stacy Cummings, Program Executive Officer of PEO DHMS, and Mr. John Windom, Program Executive Officer of the VA's Office of Information and Technology. The next meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2017.

# Combat & Casualty Care Magazine

Dr. Thompson is featured in the Summer 2017 edition of *Tactical Defense Media's Combat & Casualty Care* magazine, discussing the value and advancement of health data interoperability. She also discussed the IPO's role as the focal point for modernization activities between the DoD and VA to serve the unique needs of our beneficiaries regardless of their status, location, or provider. Tactical Defense Media is a military and homeland security trade publication group committed to covering the latest developments in tactical technology and acquisition programs. To read the article, click [here](#).



# IPO Presents at DHITS

In July, the IPO presented at the 2017 DHITS in Orlando, Florida, to further collaboration with federal healthcare partners. In its fourth year, the event brought together IT professionals, healthcare providers, and administrators from across the Military Health System committed to improving healthcare for our service members, veterans, and their families. During the IPO's "From Standardizing Data to Analytics" panel discussion, Dr. Steven Kator, the IPO's co-CMIO, highlighted the most common allergen terms among the DoD and VA, as well as the ongoing efforts to improve the exchange of allergy information, while CDR Karl Stiller, Program Manager of the IPO's Metrics & Analytics Team within the Interagency Coordination Division, discussed the IPO's progress to measure interoperability through business intelligence and design. Mr. Kenneth Blount, the IPO's Acquisition/IT Program Manager, facilitated a joint discussion with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Institute of Science and Technology, discussing the continued need for collaboration and information sharing between the medical device communities, to address the ongoing importance of securing connected medical devices. Click [here](#) to learn more.



# IPO's Joint Interoperability & Modernization Hub

To support the DoD and VA's EHR modernization efforts, the IPO created the Joint Modernization & Interoperability Hub, a new entity, focusing on encouraging and enabling increased collaboration across the Departments and serving as a central resource for joint modernization and interoperability efforts. Mr. Charles "Jay" McCloud, Jr., the IPO's Interoperability Process Lead, directs the day-to-day work efforts of the Hub, where the group provides clinical support and subject matter expertise to address the Departments' common health data sharing issues. The team also focuses on Quality Measures & Performance Metrics, Health Information Exchanges, Clinical Interoperability, Acquisitions, Operational Medicine,



# ATARC Federal Cloud & Data Center Summit

In August, the IPO participated in Advanced Technology Academic Research Center's (ATARC) Federal Cloud & Data Center Summit, an educational one-day symposium focused on cloud computing tools and techniques used by the federal government. Following previous summits, the IPO and ATARC established HealthTracs, a healthcare-focused discussion during ATARC's Federal Summits as a primary method of healthcare industry trend surveillance. This partnership leverages an existing forum to expand relationships within the government, academia, and the private sector, nurturing collaborations in order to discuss key healthcare innovation challenges relevant to the Departments and the IPO. The IPO will continue to collaborate with ATARC through various Federal Summits to examine emerging technology challenges and resolutions surrounding the use of cloud computing and big data within the federal government. Click [here](#) to learn more.



# IPO Hosts the JALFHCC Technical Forum

The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (JALFHCC) enables the Departments to integrate all medical care into a single federal health care facility with one combined mission of the VA and the U.S. Navy. In August, the IPO hosted an offsite meeting with JALFHCC to convene a decisional forum focused on identifying and obtaining approval of recommended courses of action for reported technical challenges. The event included breakout sessions, presentations to address issues in network, infrastructure and cybersecurity, as well as information assurance with a goal of formulating workable solutions and developing implementation timelines. Click [here](#) to learn more about JALFHCC.



# Calendar of Events



## SEPTEMBER

- 22 Benefits Executive Committee Meeting
- 26 Health Executive Committee Meeting
- 28 Joint Executive Committee Meeting

## OCTOBER

- 1-5 Gartner Symposium
- 9-12 Cerner Health Conference
- 24 ATARC Federal Mobile Computing Summit
- 26 IPO/ONC Meet 'N Greet

## NOVEMBER

- 4-8 AMIA Annual Summit
- 6-8 IEEE WIE Summit USA East
- 9 DoD/VA Industry Interoperability Roundtable
- 30 ONC Annual Meeting

## DECEMBER

- 5 ATARC Federal Big Data Summit
- 5-7 HL7's Partners In Interoperability Roundtable

# Meet Our Staff – Mr. Dave Calvin



Mr. Dave Calvin serves as the Director of the Standards & Technology Division of the IPO. He leads his team to research, evaluate, and provide technical guidance to the Departments and private sector partners on current and emerging health data standards. In addition to his many accomplishments, Mr. Calvin led the launch of the Consolidated-Clinical Document Architecture Affinity Group which will improve the quality of electronic care by resolving issues of electronic care summaries. *Thank you for your hard work, Mr. Calvin!*



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