Rhode Island Hospital launches country's first Google Glass study in emergency department

Study to explore efficacy of real-time dermatology consults using streaming mobile technology

PROVIDENCE – Rhode Island Hospital is bringing Google Glass into the emergency department. Using a stripped-down version of the wearable mobile video communications technology, researchers will test the efficacy of using Google Glass for real-time audio-visual consults for consented patients who require a dermatology consultation. Rhode Island Hospital is the first hospital in the U.S. to use Google Glass in an emergency department setting.

PAUL PORTER, MD, explains a feasibility study using a stripped-down, HIPAA-compliant version of Google Glass to provide patients with an audio-visual dermatological consultation in real time. "We live in a world of instant gratification, and in many ways, we're testing that mindset by using Google Glass to enhance telemedicine in the emergency department," said principal investigator Dr. Porter, a physician in the emergency departments of Rhode Island, Hasbro Children's and The Miriam hospitals. "In this study, we will use Google Glass to stream live images of a patient's dermatological condition to the consulting dermatologist. As the emergency medicine physician observes the patient's skin condition, the consulting dermatologist will be able to see identical images on a tablet in real time, giving the dermatologist the ability to offer appropriate advice, diagnosis and treatment options."

VIDEO: Paul Porter, MD

Dr. Porter and researchers **PETER CHAI, MD**, and **ROGER WU, MD**, worked with experts at Pristine, a health care technology communications company, which has developed the only form of Google Glass that meets strict federal patient privacy laws.

"While the initial study is limited to emergency department patients who require a dermatology consult, we recognize that the opportunities for Google Glass in a medical setting are very broad," Dr. Porter said. "Ultimately, the use of this technology could result in better coordinated care, faster interventions, better outcomes, fewer follow-up office visits, fewer readmissions, and lower costs – for a wide range of disciplines, not just dermatology.

"We also envision this technology eventually being used by first responders and nursing homes as a tool to communicate with emergency medicine physicians," Porter said.

The six-month feasibility study will be limited to patients in the Rhode Island Hospital emergency department who require a dermatology consult, and who consent to taking part in the study. ❖

Lifespan creates Clinical Research Center

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan has launched a new Clinical Research Center to provide additional institutional resources to support investigators who are conducting clinical research across departments and medical specialties.

As this new center grows, its goals are aimed to make it easier for investigators to manage the multiple aspects of any clinical research study, such as study design and analysis, research nursing support, specimen processing and storage, medical oversight, project management and regulatory affairs support.

"I'm thrilled that we are able to take our research enterprise to the next level by launching the Clinical Research Center," said **PETER J. SNYDER, PhD**, Lifespan's senior vice president and chief research officer. "By bringing together this outstanding collection of resources we intend to significantly increase the capacity of our faculty to engage in important clinical research that will improve the clinical care and lives of our patients."

The creation of the center ties together many of the organization's existing resources, but also establishes a formal structure and setting to assist investigators.

The main part of the center will be located in the Coro Building a 270,000-square-foot building complex located adjacent to the Rhode Island Hospital campus. Coro is home to the majority of research laboratories in the Lifespan system. In addition to the center's administrative offices, the Coro Building also includes an outpatient clinical research unit that includes five examination rooms, in a close partnership with the Division of Adolescent Medicine at Hasbro Children's Hospital. A second outpatient unit is located in the RISE Building near The Miriam Hospital campus. This unit includes three examination rooms and immediate access to a central specimen processing lab. The new CRC will work closely with the unit at The Miriam, especially with respect to specimen processing and long-term storage.

"The new outpatient center expands Lifespan's support for clinical research," said **CATHERINE GORDON, MD, MSc**, medical director of the Clinical Research Center. "It provides a dedicated location for investigators to meet with study participants, and these additional resources will now enable many Lifespan clinical research teams to participate in multi-center trials and launch important research initiatives."

The Lifespan Clinical Research Center is available to investigators throughout the Lifespan health system, as well as to those investigators affiliated with any of Lifespan's collaborative partner institutions.

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