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CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY AND AGING RECEIVES GORDON AND BETTY MOORE FOUNDATION GRANT TO EXPAND REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING DIFFUSION EFFORTS

Additional Funding Sources Enable Center to Capitalize On Opportunities To Promote Adoption and Diffusion of Proven “Aging Technologies”

OAKLAND, Calif., Dec. 16, 2010 – Remote patient monitoring (RPM) devices could reduce the cost of managing chronic medical conditions in the U.S. by billions of dollars. In an effort to widen their use for conditions such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (GBMF) has made a \$240,000 grant to the Center for Technology and Aging’s RPM diffusion program, launched earlier this year.

“This generous Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation grant enables us to add two exciting RPM projects to the five that we funded in July,” said David Lindeman, Ph.D., director of the Center for Technology and Aging. “RPM is one of the most viable and effective approaches to improving a patient’s quality of life, while also reducing the nation’s health care cost burden. Learnings from all seven projects will provide caregivers everywhere with valuable insight on how to put these technologies to work on a much larger scale so that thousands of additional patients might benefit.”

The two additional grantees are Healthcare Partners Institute for Applied Research and Education (www.healthcarepartners.com) and Catholic Healthcare West (www.chwhealth.org).

The Healthcare Partners project – in collaboration with 4PatientCare and LifeCare Solutions – will focus on home monitoring of patients with chronic disease using interactive voice response technology to reduce emergency room (ER) visits and hospital readmissions. These technologies alert providers to potential problems, enabling them to intervene early and take action if necessary -- before a visit to the ER or readmission. In one study involving patients with heart conditions, use of RPM technology contributed to a 63% to 72% reduction in readmissions.¹

The CHW effort uses the Philips TeleStation that allows patients to remain at home or in a non-acute health care setting while self-managing chronic diseases and heart failure.

¹ Specialized Primary and Networked Care in Heart Failure disease management program (SPANCHF1)

The goals of the Center for Technology and Aging initiative are demonstrating that RPM technologies can be used throughout the nation's healthcare system and developing tools that can be used to replicate and scale up successful projects.

"RPM has already been shown to reduce the use of ERs and hospitals by older adults, the need for those with chronic illness to move to intensive higher-cost care settings, and the burden on family and professional caregivers," said Lindeman.

This grant also represents expansion of the Center's grant funding partnerships. Originally supported with a 2008 grant from The SCAN Foundation, the Center is also partnering with the Administration on Aging (AoA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on a project² to expand the use of technologies that promote better patient transitions from hospitals, rehabilitation centers, or nursing facilities back home or to other community settings.

"The Center's unique approach to collaborating with grass roots organizations to diffuse proven technologies that support older Americans is gaining more attention, and as a result, we are seeking partnerships with other funding organizations," said Lindeman.

About

The Center for Technology and Aging (www.techandaging.org) supports more rapid adoption and diffusion of technologies that enhance independence and improve home and community-based care for older adults. Through grants, research, public policy involvement, and development of practical tools and best practice guidelines, the Center serves as an independent, non-profit resource for improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of long-term care services. The Center was established with funding from The SCAN Foundation (www.thescanfoundation.org) and is affiliated with the Public Health Institute (www.phi.org) in Oakland, CA.

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, established in 2000 and based in Palo Alto, CA, seeks to advance environmental conservation and scientific research around the world and improve the quality of life in the San Francisco Bay Area. This grant to the Center for Technology and Aging is within a portfolio of grants to support unique opportunities outside of the Foundation's Betty Irene Moore Nursing Initiative. For more information, please visit www.moore.org.

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² "Implementing the Affordable Care Act: Making it Easier for Individuals to Navigate their Health and Long-Term Care through Person-Centered Systems of Information, Counseling and Access." Complete details are available at: www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/index.aspx.