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Public Comments

President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology

RE: The Future of Digital Health Technologies

Good morning. My name is Robert Levin, and I am CEO of Transclick, an innovator in digital communications and digital health platforms for the developing world. Transclick is a Tech Laureate of the Tech Museum of Innovation and a Technology Pioneer of the World Economic Forum.

Today, my comments will focus on what PCAST can do to coordinate and support the Federal Government's role in advancing and incentivizing innovation in the next wave of digital health tools, medical apps and medical sensors.

Today, I recommend extending the technology road-map for digital health sent to the President by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology in December 2010 since the landscape and opportunities have changed significantly since that report was issued.

A new Connected Health Initiative would call for increasing R&D funding in digital health public-private partnerships. Increased funding should be targeted through investment in the nation's digital health clusters at the seed capital and early stage level in order to help the private sector build the connected layer of medical devices, sensors and apps and cloud-based cognitive computing.

There is an enormous wave of innovation from the digital health startup community, including University incubators and commercial accelerators, to connect medical devices, medical apps, sensors and cognitive computing to Electronic Health Records (EHRs).

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The Federal Government can build on the successful Smart and Connected Health (SCH) Program of the National Science Foundation. The Federal Government will be able to guide the military health system to incorporate relevant innovations in connected health tools and apps through increased allocations to SBIR and STTR programs from civilian and military agencies.

In addition, there will be an opportunity to facilitate new incentives for small business innovation to collaborate with the military health systems, starting with *TRICARE* and the Veteran's Administration Healthcare system.

Everyday, innovative digital health programs and initiatives continue to be designed and launched including:

- The Veterans Administration is rolling out a Mobile Care Provider Program including a Digital Health App Store to 18 VA Medical Centers. With federal support, this program can be used as a beta platform for *TRICARE @Health.Mil*, the military's healthcare system dedicated to active duty members and other federal military and civilian agencies.
- Large systems integrators are not as well connected to the digital heartbeat of innovation in our nation's digital health clusters as they could be. Therefore, Federal civilian and military agencies need to expand their outreach to digital health entrepreneurs to integrate and curate med tech platforms, including telemedicine on mobile devices integrated with medical apps and sensors.

In the next 20 years, as the world's population will increase to over 9 billion, growing shortages of doctors and nurses will be inevitable. Virtual doctors and nurses with predictive algorithms and cognitive computing in the cloud accessible to 2 billion humans on powerful mobile devices can increase the Healthcare capacity of 192 nations, leveraging American innovation in digital health.

What we need is a clear mission to support, integrate and incentivize our nation's digital health Entrepreneurs through increased R&D investment to inspire more unthinkable innovations and accelerate once improbable scientific breakthroughs.

Appendix:

House Bill 3577 Seeks to Study Use of Innovative Wireless Technologies in Healthcare By MARTIN TRUSSELL on DECEMBER 3, 2013, quoted from news blog of Acclaris, Inc.

On November 21, 2013, Representative Scott H. Peters (D-CA) and five co-sponsors, introduced H.R. 3577. This new bill would establish the `Commission on Healthcare Savings Through Innovative Wireless Technologies.

The Commission's Initiatives would include:

1. Examine cost savings to the United States Healthcare system. Utilizing wireless health information technologies to provide significant value to patients, caregivers, and Healthcare providers with the most cost effective measures for savings. Technologies including digital health, mobile health (mHealth), eCare, tele-health, tele-medicine, remote patient monitoring, and collection of patient-generated health data must all be considered.
2. Examine existing scientific research and medical effectiveness of wireless health information technologies delivering healthcare.
3. Analyze existing payment models and incentive payment programs that provide Federal financial reimbursement or funding for the use of wireless health information technologies.
4. Incentivize accelerated innovation and technology advancement in the area of wireless health information technologies.
5. Identify and eliminate barriers to marketplace entry. Determine technical and systemic disrupters that impede effort's to develop and improve both new and existing wireless health information technologies.
6. Identify opportunity's and recommend integration of wireless health information technologies into Federal Healthcare programs.