

Opportunities and Challenges for Using Digital Health Applications in Oncology

CONCLUDING REMARKS

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Chair, Workshop Planning Committee





THEMES FROM THE WORKSHOP

How can patients and clinicians most benefit from advances in digital health?

- How can we facilitate improved communication between patients and their healthcare team?
- How can we help patients to self-manage some of their medical issues?
- How can we scale up and expand PROs
- How can digital health augment & extend access to specialized cancer expertise?
- Clinician and patient buy-in critical to adoption and use



THEMES FROM THE WORKSHOP

Research needs:

- In what contexts are digital health applications best suited? When are they not?
- How can clinical trials be re-designed to reach a broader spectrum of the patient population?
- How can we enhance clinical databases to facilitate accrual of accurate Real World Evidence
- How can we learn about COVID-19 disease among patients with cancer?
- How can we understand care redesign as a result of the pandemic, and these influences on cancer patient outcomes?



THEMES FROM THE WORKSHOP

Significant ethical, data security, patient privacy issues at play

- Prioritization of patient-centered design, input, and trust
 - “No data aggregation without representation”
- Consider the purpose of data aggregation activity
- Essential to keep promises to stakeholders
- *Validation of digital health technologies and uncertain regulatory pathways*
 - Complex challenge, with both innovations & regulatory environment rapidly evolving
 - Bias due to underrepresentation is a critical threat to validity & exacerbates existing health disparities



THEMES FROM THE WORKSHOP

COVID-19 Pandemic is an opportunity for learning & system redesign for overall care and for digital health

- How can we preserve and extend the good that has stemmed from rapid uptake of digital health during the pandemic?
- How can we evaluate new processes and tools for validity and worth
- Policy actions:
 - Payment policies—parity for telehealth, reimbursement for digital health (e.g., ePROs), enabling clinicians to practice across state lines with telehealth—*especially considering strategies to achieve health equity*
 - National legislation for insurance coverage
 - National legislation for data sharing, protecting individuals from discrimination
 - What incremental changes can push us in the right direction?



THEMES FROM THE WORKSHOP

Can we more rapidly move the development and use of digital health applications for the benefit of our patients?

- National Will
 - Patients
 - Clinicians
 - Regulators
 - Payors
- Scientific method to direct us forward
- Focus on patient benefit



REMINDER: OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE THE RESEARCH AGENDA FOR TELEHEALTH IN ONCOLOGY

Request for Information: Seeking Stakeholder Input on Scientific Gaps and Research Needs Related to Delivery of Cancer-related Care via Telehealth

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is seeking information on scientific gaps and research needs related to the delivery of cancer-related care via telehealth.

This request for information (RFI) is part of a planning effort designed to identify promising opportunities and set priorities for research in this area.

Responses are due by July 30, 2020 and can be emailed to NCITelehealth_RFI@nih.gov.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-080.html>



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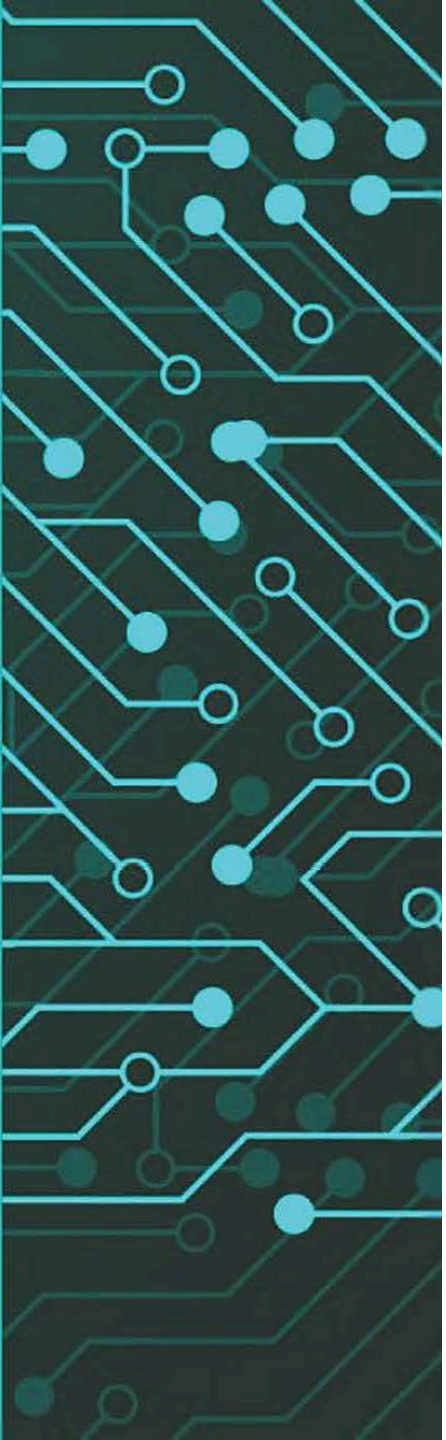
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THANK YOU!!