

eHealth: A vision for the future

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“Computers are incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid. Human beings are incredibly slow, inaccurate and brilliant. Together they are powerful beyond imagination.”

Albert Einstein

My vision is that eHealth becomes the foundation for the development of a global health care system that is easily accessible, equitable, and effective. eHealth will be the means to care for, to collaborate, to communicate, and to connect with one another globally. I believe that eHealth can be the “digital nervous system” that connects and coordinates the disparate parts of a worldwide health system. We need to imagine the marvelous possibilities that must become reality and stop thinking of eHealth as (just) a technology.

We already see the beginnings of a global “digital nervous system” linking people from different cultures, times, and locations challenging our notions of place, identity, and community. eHealth can be another important link to building a worldwide community. I believe that eHealth will be a means of mitigating barriers to accessing care services, overcoming the unhealthy distributions of resources that cause significant health disparities between people groups. eHealth will allow us to communicate with our local providers, access information from global data sources, collaborate with other specialists around the world, acquire services from a provider of our choosing, in a language and medium of our preference. Being able to access care services any place, any time, and from any health care professional is just the beginning.

Ultimately, as information sharing information and communication between patients, providers, and other health agencies becomes easier, networks and communities practice will develop and be strengthened. This concept of networked and collaborative communities could be expanded to form the beginnings of a world-wide health system.

My hope is that eHealth will provide the impetus to do something bold, something grand, and create a global health system.