

HST.921 Project Proposal

Company Name	Partners HealthCare - Center for Connected Health
Primary Contact	Paul Heinzelmann, MD Project Leader, Operation Village Health
Specialty area of interest	Chronic disease management for underserved populations
Project title/proposal	Digital Pen and EMR integration with a cross-cultural telemedicine program
Brief description of project	Since 2001 Operation Village Health has been delivering the expertise of Harvard-affiliated specialists in the Partners HealthCare to healthcare providers in several remote villages of Cambodia. To date over 700 patient encounters have been supported through this email-based program. Program enhancements are proposed and include the piloting of a Digital Pen point-of-care data capture tool and the archiving of patient encounter data into a web-accessible electronic medical record.
Rationale/significance	The burden of chronic disease is growing for populations in the developing world as they undergo epidemiological transition. As this burden grows, models of care that leverage information and communication technologies will play a significant role in the future. Innovative alternatives to keyboard entry such as the Digital Pen add value by improving the completeness of clinical data sent to consulting specialists and improve adoption by minimizing transcription time.
Target Audience	Funding agencies, NGO contractors for Cambodian Ministry of Health, American Assistance for Cambodia, Academic forums
Goals/Objectives	We aim to establish a seamless clinical data capture and storage system to augment an already operational email-based telemedicine program serving several villages of remote Cambodia. By piloting digital pen technology and integrating the output with an open source medical record and a proprietary Partners HealthCare web interface, we seek to create a model for improved continuity of care for these underserved groups.
Comments or suggestion for the proposed method of implementation	The digital pen component is functional but has not been tested in the field. As such, this component represents a proof-of-concept project, but will likely have a wide variety of applications if successful. Will likely require meeting with developers of OpenMRS software and understanding the use of this web-based open source EMR system (openMRS was created by Partners In Health) and

	managers of Partners HealthCare IS Department.
Other	Participation may lead to longer-term role in Operation Village Health. Will work closely with Nelly Douptchova, a former HST 921 student who has taken a leading role in the Digital Pen initiative.