

## **Joseph C. Kvedar, M.D.**

**Guest Lecturer**

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**Joseph C. Kvedar, MD**, is Director of Partners Telemedicine and leads the Connected Health Initiative, a collaboration between Partners HealthCare and key health, technology, and industry contributors to achieve the vision of patient-centered care. Dr. Kvedar oversees initiatives to harness the power of communication technologies in improving quality, access, and efficiency of care. Dr. Kvedar launched the first physician-to-physician online consultation service in an academic setting and has pioneered efforts to bring quality care to underserved populations across the world. He is currently investigating novel uses of technology for the connected health consumer, including physiologic-monitoring of homecare patients, multi-media messaging to improve adherence, and online follow-up visits to improve access and efficiency. Dr. Kvedar is also vice chair of Dermatology, Harvard Medical School, and immediate past president of the American Telemedicine Association.

“Telehealth: The Future of Healthcare”

The concept of "connected health" extends healthcare beyond the traditional confines of hospitals and doctors' offices, bringing healthcare to our everyday surroundings. The availability of technology in the home, our aging population and the increase of patients with chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and obesity, are some of the factors fueling increased interest and growth in connected health. Also, health care organizations face a changing reimbursement environment, provider shortages and increasing pressure to lower costs, all factors that contribute to interest in novel approaches to care delivery.

To achieve the vision of connected health, two challenges must be addressed: providing patients with better tools for self care, and giving providers better tools for remote care. This insight has resulted in the planning and building of connected health platforms that are extensible across many chronically ill populations (e.g. adherence tools, e-visits, physiologic monitoring).

The most success in using connected health as a model of care delivery has been achieved in the management of congestive heart failure, where all participants can find benefit in using connected health tools to manage this population in the home setting. Other programs that will be highlighted include workplace hypertension management, the use of smart pill bottles to improve adherence and activity monitoring as a tool for overweight and diabetes.