

# HITSP

Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel

HITSP News  
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The [Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel \(HITSP\)](#) is a cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors. The Panel was formed for the purpose of harmonizing and integrating standards that will meet clinical and business needs for sharing information among organizations and systems.

**Welcome to HITSP News, a monthly newsletter that provides news on the activities of the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel. Visit the HITSP website at [www.hitsp.org](http://www.hitsp.org) for more information. If you have news or ideas for HITSP News, please send them to [hitsp@ansi.org](mailto:hitsp@ansi.org) for consideration.**

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## What Does HITSP Mean to You

### *An Interview with Dr. Neil Calman*

*HITSP News* brings readers a regular column – “What Does HITSP Mean to You?” which features interviews with [HITSP members](#) and potential members about their perspective on the work of HITSP. In this inaugural article, [Neil Calman, MD](#), shares his thoughts on HITSP by answering four questions that will be posed to each person interviewed for this column. The questions provide insight from healthcare industry professionals, some who are members of HITSP and quite familiar with its work and others who are new to this standards panel, on the value of HITSP and its role in the transformation of healthcare now underway.

Dr. Calman is a board certified family physician who has been practicing in the Bronx and Manhattan, NY for the past 30 years. He is a co-founder of the [Institute for Family Health](#) where he has served as President and CEO since 1983. Dr. Calman currently serves on the NYS Council on Graduate Medical Education, on the Board of the Community Health Care Association of NYS, and is a past President of the NY Academy of Family Physicians. He is a member of the [Health IT Policy Committee](#).

Additional information on Dr. Calman and his work in community healthcare appears following the questions.

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## What Does HITSP Mean to You

### **1. Prior to your appointment to the Health IT Policy Committee, had you heard of HITSP?**

I had heard of HITSP as I read about the importance of developing standards for health information technology and attended conferences where the challenges in standards development were discussed.

### **2. Do you know the purpose of HITSP?**

I believe that HITSP is seeking to create a system of communications standards as well as setting standards for how electronic transactions are handled.

### **3. What do you believe the impact of HITSP is or will be on businesses and other practices?**

If standard setting works well, it should become largely invisible to the users of HIT systems and should assist vendors in developing software and processes that are designed to facilitate exchanging health information between systems.

#### **4. Is there a need for HITSP in the future?**

Just like the Internet developed a standard platform for communication, HITSP should develop a platform for standard communication that is durable over time yet flexible enough to encourage the continued development of new ideas, new systems and new methods of processing transactions in health care. One of the challenges for HITSP, or any other standards body, is not to stifle innovation and to make sure standards do not become a box that traps us. There will always be disruptive processes that come in from the side that can have the potential of quantum leaps of progress. So any ongoing standards body, whether for use case testing or implementation, must allow for that type of flexibility and innovation.

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#### **More on Dr. Calman...**

The Institute for Family Health now includes:

- 15 Federally Qualified Health Centers in the Bronx, Manhattan and in the Mid-Hudson Valley
- 8 sites to deliver health care to the homeless;
- 3 dental centers;
- 2 mental health centers;
- 2 school health centers;
- 2 free clinics; and
- Extensive home visitation programs.

The Institute's family medicine residencies have graduated over 350 family doctors for medically underserved urban and rural areas. In 2002, the Institute became one of the first community health center networks in the country to implement a fully integrated electronic medical record and practice management system. In September 1999, Dr. Calman became the project director of a CDC grant aimed at eliminating racial and ethnic differences in health outcomes in the Bronx. Grants from the Centers for Disease Control, the NIH and numerous foundations support the Institute's research.

He is the recipient of numerous awards including honors from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Pew Charitable Trust and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. [Read more.](#)

*Joyce Hunter, a member of the HITSP Education, Communication and Outreach Committee, conducted this interview with Dr. Calman.*

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#### **What's New at HITSP?**

##### **Update on July 8 HITSP Panel Meeting**

(July 9, 2009) – Check the [“News and Announcements”](#) page of the HITSP Web site for an update on the panel meeting and voting on HITSP Interoperability Specifications.

##### **HITSP Begins Harmonization Process for Use of EHRs in Clinical Research**

(June 15, 2009) - The [Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel](#) (HITSP), a cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors that works to ensure the interoperability of electronic health records (EHRs) in the United States, has begun work to identify global standards to support “core research data element exchange,” specifically, a common set of information that can readily be exchanged between EHRs and clinical research systems. [Read more.](#)

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## Webinars

### **Mark Your Calendar - HITSP Webinar Series August 27- HITSP eTown Hall II**

Come back for the second HITSP Town Hall online gathering from 2 – 3:30 p.m. EDT on Aug. 27. Look for more information on the registration page on the [HITSP Web site](#). Participation in any of the HITSP webinars is complimentary, but advance registration is required.

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## **Message from the Chair – Dr. John Halamka – July 10, 2009**

Folks:

On Wednesday at the HITSP Panel meeting, we approved the work our Tiger Teams completed over the past 60 days to support the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Thanks again to all the hard work in the HITSP world that allowed us to show our nimbleness and ability to deliver quality products in an accelerated timeline. Well done!

If you have questions or concerns, please email me at [jhalamka@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:jhalamka@hms.harvard.edu)

### **[Read John Halamka's blog](#)**

Life as a Healthcare CIO

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## **HITSP FAQ – HITSP Volunteers**

HITSP represents 742 member organizations and 644 individual volunteers in an open, inclusive and consensus based process with broad stakeholder representation from the private and public sectors.

HITSP volunteers participate in Technical Committees, Coordinating Committees and Tiger Teams. Volunteers for a HITSP Technical Committee or Tiger Team must be affiliated with a HITSP member organization. And... organizations can join HITSP free of charge.

**[Find out more about HITSP membership.](#)**

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## **Calendar of Events**

### **Just around the Corner...**

#### **[HIT Policy Committee](#)**

July 16

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Park Hyatt Washington Hotel

Washington, DC

#### **[HIT Standards Committee](#)**

July 21

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Holiday Inn Capitol  
Washington, DC

### Other 2009 Meetings

**August 25-27** - Technical Committee Meetings (Hilton Garden Inn Chicago O'Hare Airport, Des Plaines, Ill.)

**September 8** - HITSP Board meeting (teleconference)

**September 15** - HITSP Panel meeting (Sheraton National, Arlington, Va.)

**December 1** - HITSP Board meeting (teleconference)

**December 15** - HITSP Panel meeting (Sheraton National, Arlington, Va.)

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HITSP depends on the participation of volunteer experts from across the healthcare enterprise.  
For more information on becoming a volunteer for HITSP, please contact [hitsp@ansi.org](mailto:hitsp@ansi.org)



[www.hitsp.org](http://www.hitsp.org)

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