In this edition of MITRE Health Innovations, we share with you four programs that have brought innovative solutions to Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies in the areas of biomedical resource management, health research, and pain management. We also bring you the story of how a successful public-private partnership for aviation safety has inspired new approaches in health. These programs are examples of how agencies engage the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare, HHS’s federally funded research and development center (Health FFRDC). We listen, apply our collective brain power toward understanding the problem holistically, and discover solutions that improve the health and well-being of our nation. I truly hope these innovative solutions spark ideas for reuse within your agency. Please reach out to me with any questions. I look forward to hearing from you at healthinnovations@mitre.org.

Yours sincerely,
Patty Steinbrech
Vice President and Director
CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (Health FFRDC)

Featured in this issue:
Developing a new biomedical framework | National Library of Medicine
Advancing pain management | Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Launching a tobacco research tool | U.S. Food and Drug Administration
ASIAS aviation data sharing model finds application across disciplines | Department of Health and Human Services
New Tool Primes Nation’s Top Biomedical Research Resource for the Future

When the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world’s largest biomedical library, wanted insights into their many products and services, they teamed up with MITRE. The result was a new framework and user-friendly dashboard supporting the library’s resource management and decision-making. In December, NLM will honor the team of NLM and MITRE staff with a Special Act or Service Award for their work.

“The Tableau visualization of the baseline data stimulated our Board members to start asking questions and bringing up issues we hadn’t considered before. We realized then how powerful a tool the dashboard would be going forward.”

– Michael Huerta, Director of NLM’s Office of Strategic Initiatives and Associate Director of NLM

Learn more at: www.mitre.org/project-stories/nlm

MITRE’s Data Sharing and Analysis Model in Aviation Finds Applications Across Disciplines Including Healthcare and Human Services

The Federal Aviation Administration has dramatically improved U.S. aviation safety over the past decade through the Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing (ASIAS) initiative that MITRE helped launch. Since then, ASIAS has served as a model in air space safety across the globe and MITRE has found limitless applications for the ASIAS model, including working with HHS to prevent healthcare fraud and child welfare fatalities, and promote medical device quality.

At the Health FFRDC, we are poised to tackle the nation’s health problems from a systems thinking perspective and to leverage solutions within existing technologies or program frameworks, like with the ASIAS model. Our team would love to hear from you at healthinnovations@mitre.org.

Learn more at: www.mitre.org/project-stories/ASIAS-model
The CTP Integrated Research Data System (CIRDs) team at the FDA Scientific Computing Day in October 2019

CIRDs Tool Gives FDA an Unprecedented and Modern Alternative to Conduct Tobacco Research

The CTP Integrated Research Data System or CIRDs, an advanced and customized search engine built by MITRE as a proof-of-concept for the Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, enables scientists, toxicologists, and research staff to break through siloed data sets and conduct tobacco research in an integrated fashion. Now for the first time ever, a CTP researcher can simply type search criteria to have CIRDs return a precise set of results searching through a vast repository of 14 million plus records. What’s more, the use of the underlying technology provides opportunities for reuse to solve big data challenges across other federal agencies.

“CIRDs is one of the coolest IT systems at CTP.”

– Executive sponsor Deborah Sholtes, Supervisory Regulatory Health, CTP

MITRE Helps AHRQ Advance Pain Management Through Greater Use of Digital Technology

Factors to Consider in Managing Chronic Pain, an interoperable clinical decision support (CDS) tool that provides a summary view of chronic pain information in a patient’s health record, is now available on CDS Connect, a repository developed by MITRE for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to share CDS resources. Highlighted at the White House on July 30 as part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ 2019 Blue Button Developers Conference, Dr. Gopal Khanna, Director of AHRQ, calls this tool “a groundbreaking innovation” in his blogpost.

Now in its fourth year, the CDS Connect team has worked with several federal agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, and the Center for Program Integrity at CMS to improve the quality of healthcare through shared, interoperable resources.

Read Dr. Khanna’s blogpost at: http://b.link/ahrq98
About the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (Health FFRDC)

The CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare federally funded research and development center (Health FFRDC) is the first FFRDC dedicated to protecting and promoting the health and well-being of all Americans. FFRDCs are unique organizations established under FAR 35.017 that assist the government in meeting special, long-term research and development needs integral to the mission of the sponsoring agency. The Health FFRDC is sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). MITRE, an objective not-for-profit organization, operates the Health FFRDC in partnership with CMS and all HHS agencies to implement innovative ideas to solve our nation’s toughest health problems.

About MITRE Health

We believe data is the next innovation in health. Our work connects people and data to change the health market and reinvent the health experience. Through the power of partnership and trusted engagement, we can solve our nation’s toughest health problems for a safer world.

Join us at www.mitre.org/health.

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