January 22, 2013

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to invite you and your organization to support healthcare transformation by joining a multi-stakeholder movement to develop a national learning health system (LHS).

The learning health system (LHS) will support the transformation of American healthcare to which we are all committed, enabling us to learn more rapidly from the increasing amounts of digitally stored health information—to help individuals make better-informed care decisions, to improve patient care, and to support public health and biomedical research.

A collaborative, grassroots approach to building a national learning health system is growing out of the May, 2012 LHS Summit sponsored by the Joseph H. Kanter Family Foundation. At the Summit, over 80 organizations spanning the health sector worked together to develop a set of LHS Core Values (attached). I am proud that Geisinger is one of the 36 organizations that have formally endorsed the Core Values and is an active member of the Learning Health Community (http://www.learninghealth.org) that has grown out of it.

Please review the attached Core Values and consider endorsing them using the attached endorsement template. Endorsing these Core Values will make an important statement and link your organization with a growing network of like-minded organizations. (Your endorsement does not commit your organization to support the Learning Health Community in any way.)

Additional information can be found in the attached article, the reports from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) reports listed below, and the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan, also listed below. Please direct specific questions about the Learning Health Community and the endorsement process to Josh Rubin, Executive Director of the Joseph H. Kanter Family Foundation, at Josh@JoshCRubin.com.

Sincerely,

Glenn D. Steele, Jr., MD, PhD
President & Chief Executive Officer

Attachments