Connecting care around the world: moving from vision to reality

Joe DeSantis, vice president of HealthShare Platforms, is responsible for all aspects of the InterSystems HealthShare informatics platform, including software development, product marketing and business development. As former vice president of research & development at Liant Software Corporation, he was in charge of product vision, architecture and development of object-oriented development tools. DeSantis also co-founded Oakland Group, Inc., where he served as vice president of research & development and oversaw the architecture, design and development of the C-scape Interface Management System.

You work with healthcare systems around the world. Are you seeing more similarities or differences these days?

Definitely more similarities. In fact, even though payment and care delivery models differ from country to country, many of the basic challenges are the same – and they all require information sharing! So we work at multiple levels of those health systems, in partnership with our customers, to help address those problems.

For example, regional health systems have to become more collaborative if they are going to deal with chronic conditions effectively. Information and services have to be provided across and beyond traditional organizational and disciplinary boundaries in a seamless fashion. So we develop products and technology for real and meaningful interoperability between clinical systems across the entire continuum of care.

Do you have any other examples?

Sure. Whether you’re a provider or payer, caring for patients within healthcare organizations has become a team sport on a constantly changing playing field. Clinicians of all types must not only work effectively as individuals, but also as part of coordinated teams. That requires reliable software that can cope with ongoing change. So InterSystems has created a high performance data platform that gives real-time, concurrent access to critical healthcare data. We use the platform to build our own global EHR and information sharing products, and our network of partners has used it to create the world’s leading and best clinical solutions.

And as the world moves towards population-based health, it is important to remember that people will always be at the center of healthcare. So we make it a priority to make it possible for all individuals to see the information relevant to them in a robust, scalable, and secure fashion, whether they are clinicians, patients, or family members.

That’s a tremendous vision, but sometimes reality doesn’t live up to hype. How is shared health information actually making a difference?

You are right in some ways – even the most connected communities have a long way to go yet. But there are creative care organizations all around us, expanding the boundaries of what they do, and helping our customers make a difference to real people.

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In all three cases, we see how connections make a difference to real people.

What is your next big challenge?

Frankly, it goes back to your earlier question. We need to help more organizations move from concept to demonstrated reality. So we will be expanding the boundaries of what we do, and helping our customers expand the boundaries of what they do.

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About InterSystems

InterSystems is a global leader in software for connected care, with headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and offices in 25 countries. InterSystems HealthShare™ is a health informatics platform that enables strategic interoperability and analytics for action across a hospital network, community, region or nation. InterSystems’ products are used by thousands of hospitals and laboratories worldwide, including all of the top hospitals on the Honor Roll of America’s Best Hospitals as rated by U.S. News and World Report. For more information, visit InterSystems.com.