



## Electronic Health Record Association Announces Results of Annual Executive Committee Election, Shares Highlights of Past Year

**(Chicago, July 23, 2018)** The Electronic Health Record Association (EHRA), a trade association of 34 companies that serve the vast majority of hospitals and ambulatory care organizations that use electronic health records (EHRs) and other health information and technology to deliver high quality, efficient care to their patients, announced the results of its annual Executive Committee elections for terms beginning July 1, 2018.

The Executive Committee, which establishes EHRA's guiding principles and develops and implements strategic plans, will be led by new Chair Cherie Holmes-Henry, Vice President of Industry Affairs at NextGen Healthcare, and Vice Chair Sasha TerMaat, Director at Epic.

Newly elected to the EHRA Executive Committee are:

- Barbara Hobbs, Senior Government Affairs Manager at MEDITECH
- Courtney Tesvich, RN, Vice President Regulatory at Nextech

Continuing members of the EHRA Executive Committee are:

- Hans Buitendijk, Director of Interoperability Strategy for Cerner Corporation
- Nadeem Dhanani, MD, MPH, Medical Director of Urology at Modernizing Medicine
- David Heller, Corporate Counsel for Government Affairs at Greenway Health
- Rick Reeves, RPh, Director of Government Relations for Evident, an EHR division of CPSI

Leigh Burchell, Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy at Allscripts, and Carl Dvorak, President at Epic, remain ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

Reflecting the balance that EHRA strives to achieve in its leadership to represent both practice-focused and hospital-focused EHR software developers, Dhanani, Heller, Holmes-Henry, and Tesvich fill ambulatory-focused seats. Buitendijk, Hobbs, Reeves and TerMaat fill enterprise-focused seats.

"As we continue to collaborate with stakeholders to reduce provider burden, enhance usability, and move toward full interoperability of EHRs," said Holmes-Henry, "it is important that the EHRA leadership team bring not only their own expertise but also the experiences and perspectives of their diverse customers to our discussions."

Added TerMaat, "EHRA leaders engage regularly with government officials, healthcare societies and other stakeholders to ensure that the real-world experiences of EHRA developers and end-users are considered when legislation, regulations, and standards are being discussed."

During its 2018 Fiscal Year, EHRA volunteers on the Executive Committee and on 10 [Workgroups](#) generated more than two dozen [comments](#) on a variety of topics affecting EHR developers and clinicians, sharing EHR developers' expertise with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, the Food and Drug Administration, members of Congress, and others.

EHRA operates on the premise that widespread adoption of health information and technology improves patient care. This year, the Association formed an Opioid Crisis Task Force to identify how EHRs and other technology can play a larger role in assisting providers and public health professionals addressing the opioid

epidemic, and which policy changes and adoption patterns are needed to maximize the capacities of EHRs in this fight.

The Task Force began its work by creating [a landscape](#) of the current state-by-state and federal technology efforts being used to fight the opioid epidemic, and identifying gaps and inconsistencies across states with regard to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) and electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS). They also identified the issues and consequences created by these gaps and inconsistencies, and potential changes that could improve the tools and make them more effective.

Initial recommendations of the EHRA Opioid Crisis Task Force include integration of PDMPs into clinical workflows within the EHR, mandated use of EPCS, and incorporation of pain management Clinical Decision Support (CDS) tools into the EHR, at the point at which prescribing decisions are being made. An [infographic](#) summarizes the Task Force's findings and recommendations.

Also this year, the EHRA Clinician Experience Workgroup launched the [Persona Library](#), a publicly-available resource to help EHR developers better visualize and understand the end-user. The library was created using input from last year's EHRA Usability Summit participants as a starting point. The Workgroup is currently compiling input from participants in this year's Usability Summit, which focused on approaches and tactics to ease clinician burden through the EHR.

"I'm so proud to be part of this collaborative organization," said Holmes-Henry. "It's a pleasure to work with my talented and creative colleagues in this non-competitive space where we're able to work together toward our shared goal of enabling EHRs and health IT to improve healthcare for patients and providers."

Over the coming year, EHRA will continue to focus on its core objectives: collaborative efforts to accelerate adoption of health information and technology, advance interoperability, and improve the quality and efficiency of care through the best use of EHRs and other technologies. EHRA engages the EHR software developer community and other stakeholders regarding standards development, EHR certification processes and criteria, interoperability, patient safety, EHR usability, privacy and security, electronic performance and quality measures (eQMs), technology-focused public policy, and other EHR-related issues that are the subject of increasing government, payer, and provider focus.

### **About the EHR Association**

Established in 2004, the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Association is comprised of 34 companies that supply the vast majority of EHRs to physicians' practices and hospitals across the United States. The EHR Association operates on the premise that the rapid, widespread adoption of EHRs will help improve the quality of patient care as well as the productivity and sustainability of the healthcare system as a key enabler of healthcare transformation. The EHR Association and its members are committed to supporting safe healthcare delivery, fostering continued innovation, and operating with high integrity in the market for our users and their patients and families.

The EHR Association is a partner of HIMSS. For more information, visit [www.ehra.org](http://www.ehra.org).

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