

**LEADERS CIRCLE:**

**CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL MODERNIZATION IN MISSION-FOCUSED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

**SPEAKERS:**

Don Fenhagen, Managing Client Partner, IBM Consulting  
Chaitan Baru, Distinguished Scientist, SDSC

**DISCUSSANTS:**

Peter Neffenger (UCSG, TSA)  
Robin A Thottungal, Deputy AIG for Management (CIO), OPM

**MODERATOR:**

James Short, SDSC

**ABSTRACT**

Public sector executives and technology officers face unique challenges in driving their digital modernization efforts. While most agencies have embraced digitalization imperatives, agency leaders face implementation barriers, regular leadership turnover, cultural resistance to change, and Congressional and OMB budgetary oversight that can complicate long-term versus short-term modernization efforts and investment. At the same time, agency officials must address significant talent gaps in software developers, data engineers, and data analysts in the context of an aging workforce that affects all federal agencies. Our panel of distinguished speakers have extensive leadership experience in strategy, operational implementation, and digital modernization efforts “from the ground up.” That is, modernizing their agency infrastructures concurrent with fulfilling mission responsibilities and public disclosure and oversight of mission strategies and implementation performance. The goal of our panel is to better understand the key concerns and considerations of federal leaders as they drive agency modernization, in people, processes, and technologies, as they plan their agency futures.

**SCIENCE CIRCLE:  
MISSION ENABLEMENT IN SCIENCE-BASED PUBLIC AGENCIES:  
HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH SCIENCES AS CASES IN POINT**

**SPEAKERS:**  
Scott Kahn, Chief Information and Privacy Officer, LunaPBC  
Tim Mackey, Professor, UCSD

**DISCUSSANT:**  
Alastair Thomson (NHLBI)

**MODERATOR:**  
James Short (SDSC)

**ABSTRACT**

Digitalization in health care and biomedical research has developed at a rapid pace. Despite persistent challenges, the adoption of electronic health records (EHR) is one example of this digital modernization, adding to an ever-increasing amount of personal clinical data generated in routine health care delivery.

Much progress is expected from the sharing and reuse of such structured clinical data for secondary research purposes in a wide area of application. Epidemiological and health economic research, comparative effectiveness research, health care quality improvement, learning health care systems (LHCS) and precision medicine all rely on promising developments in health care digital modernization. It is expected that data-intensive research using big data analytics, machine learning, deep learning and artificial intelligence could be a true turning point for biomedical research and health care delivery.

A cornerstone in this expectation is an appropriate data infrastructure. However, due to differences in local, regional and national healthcare infrastructures, the digital landscape in the health sector is largely characterized by heterogeneity. Hospitals alone require a broad spectrum of different IT solutions, such as electronic medical records, laboratory information systems, and individual solutions for clinical research at the same time.

Our distinguished panel speakers, all with long experience in healthcare and health data governance, will address current innovation in health data and data sharing policies, the importance of new technologies in the health IT environment, and what progress and/or disruptions they expect over the next several years. We will also ask speakers to reflect on whether the lessons learned in healthcare digital modernization can be easily translatable to other data privacy domains, for example, in consumer information.

Or whether digital governance in healthcare is industry specific, due to the inherent differences involved. Participants attending this session will come away with a deeper understanding of current innovations in healthcare data policy and its impacts on consumer data sharing and privacy regulation.

**FUTURES PANEL:**

**IMPORTANT INFLECTION POINTS AND CHALLENGES IN THE DATA ENVIRONMENT**

**SPEAKERS:**

Frank Wuerthwein, Director, SDSC

Steven Meltzer, Partner, Pillsbury

Hazem Danny Nakib, Managing Partner, Sentinel Capital Group and UCL

James Short, Lead Scientist, SDSC

**MODERATOR**

Mel Horwitch, MIT Sloan

**ABSTRACT**

Our concluding panel of DataEast'22 will take a broad look at the data environment, incorporating perspectives from government, industry, and SDSC. In this session our distinguished panelists, and indeed all attendees, are encouraged to take a hard and imaginative look ahead to help us understand how the broadly defined data environment will change over the next five years. In an informal, open-ended, and interactive manner the panelists will share with all attending what they see as the two or three major inflection points that have the potential to shape substantially or even alter the direction of data technology, policy, and/or business strategy. The panelists will elaborate on and defend their views and will provide specific examples in support of their ideas. All DataEast'22 attendees will also be given the opportunity to weigh in with their own opinions and reactions. One overarching aspiration for this session is that the insights presented will form the basis for setting a far-reaching agenda for further research, learning, and events, including forthcoming DataWest and DataEast Conferences.