

# CONNECTING FOR HEALTH<sup>SM</sup>

MARKLE FOUNDATION *A Public-Private Collaborative*

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Suite 615F  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

We are honored to nominate Dr. Carol Diamond, Chair of Connecting for Health and Managing Director of the Markle Foundation, as a voting member of the American Health Information Community (AHIC). The organizations we represent and more than 100 others have been deeply engaged in Markle's Connecting for Health Collaborative (CFH), the multi-sector effort that has advanced the goal of nationwide electronic health information exchange based on open common standards. Dr. Diamond has led this effort, which has forged a remarkable consensus on key principles nearly identical to those underpinning the AHIC. We view Dr. Diamond's participation in the AHIC as the continuation of this very important collaborative work. As the Chair of this multi-stakeholder process, Dr. Diamond is widely recognized as a key decision maker in health IT, as is the entire CFH collaborative. We firmly believe that the current national effort on health IT would not be as mature and productive as it is without the leadership of Dr. Diamond and CFH. This belief is so deeply held that we spontaneously nominated Dr. Diamond for the AHIC at a recent meeting of the CFH Steering Group, the 75-person governing board of the collaborative.

The accomplishments of CFH under Dr. Diamond's leadership have shaped the field of health IT in recent years. We feel privileged to have participated in an ongoing series of CFH deliberations led by Dr. Diamond, which have achieved agreement on some of the most difficult and sensitive issues in health IT policy, including the protection of patient privacy. Under Dr. Diamond's leadership, the CFH collaborative created consensus around the first set of standards for an interoperable health care system, played a leading role in defining the electronic personal health record, and forged a set of common principles in the area of connectivity in health care. We described and disseminated the principles for connectivity in the CFH report "Achieving Electronic Connectivity in Healthcare: A Preliminary Roadmap from the Nation's Public and Private-Sector Healthcare Leaders" and elaborated upon them in our collaborative response to ONCHIT's RFI. These principles include defining a "Common Framework" of technical standards and policies for information sharing, as well as creating nationwide capability for health information exchange using the Internet, not a new network. Given the complexity of the challenge and the diverse players involved, the achievements of CFH and Dr. Diamond are truly remarkable.

At present, Dr. Diamond is a leader of the CFH effort to achieve interoperability among several health information exchanges located in Massachusetts, Indiana, and California. We believe this effort may serve as a prototype for national health information exchange, and our organizers have responded to the recent HHS RFP. Finally, we have developed collaboration between CFH and the Markle Task Force on National Security in the Information Age, the multi-stakeholder commission in which you participated, and Dr. Diamond has contributed to Task Force work on bioterrorism.

Achieving a health information-sharing environment in the United States will require informed leadership that can deliver consensus from physicians, consumers, patients, health plans, and many others. In fact, Dr. Diamond's professional activities span the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors in the fields of medicine, IT, health plan management, quality improvement, and policy development. Moreover, the Markle Foundation is expert in the methodology of successful multi-stakeholder commissions and has a broad network among the IT, privacy, consumer, and health communities. Dr. Diamond's acumen in forging consensus would benefit the AHIC and the nation, as would the CFH Collaborative's ability to identify and define technical and policy issues, develop solutions, build consensus, and create momentum for action. The American people deserve no less, and we believe that Dr. Diamond would be a tremendous asset to you as a voting member of this important new body.

Sincerely,



Zoë Baird



Dan Garrett



John Lumpkin



Herb Pardes

**CONNECTING FOR HEALTH**<sup>SM</sup>  
**MARKLE FOUNDATION**      *A Public-Private Collaborative*

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Suite 615F  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

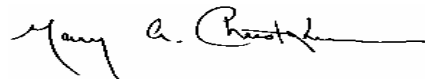
We the undersigned are members of the Steering Group of Connecting for Health or are close collaborators with this very important multi-stakeholder effort of more than 100 organizations to advance nationwide electronic health information exchange. We strongly support the nomination of Dr. Carol Diamond, Managing Director of the Markle Foundation and the leader of Connecting for Health, to the American Health Information Community (AHIC). As the attached letter from Zoë Baird, president of the Markle Foundation and CFH's vice chairs Dan Garrett, Dr. John Lumpkin and Dr. Herbert Pardes makes clear, Dr. Diamond is an outstanding leader and decision maker in the field of health IT. Through her leadership of CFH, Dr. Diamond has earned our respect and trust. Her expert knowledge and her ability to forge agreements on tough issues in health IT among groups that often disagree with one another would serve the AHIC and the American people. Moreover, we view Dr. Diamond's participation on the AHIC as a continuation of the important work we have been carrying out on health IT for the past several years. We ask you to appoint Dr. Diamond to the AHIC.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED GROUP LETTER**




Peter Andersen  
Lockheed Martin Information Technology



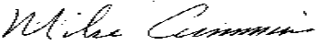
Gary Christopherson  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services




William Braithwaite, MD, PhD  
eHealth Initiative




Janet Corrigan, PhD  
National Committee for Quality Health Care


  
Mike Cummins  
VHA Inc.

  
Francois de Brantes  
GE Corporate Headquarters


  
David A. Epstein  
Public Sector Solutions,  
IBM Software Group

**MARK FRISSE, MD**  
Mark Frisse  
Vanderbilt Center for Better Health

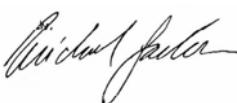
  
Peter Geerlofs, MD  
Allscripts Healthcare Solutions


  
John Halamka, MD  
CareGroup Healthcare System


**Linda M. Harris**  
Linda M. Harris, PhD  
National Cancer Institute


  
Joseph Heyman, MD  
American Medical Association


  
Yin Ho  
Pfizer, Inc.

  
Michael Jackman  
Eastman Kodak Company


  
Charles Jaffe, MD. PhD  
SAIC


  
William F. Jessee, MD  
MGMA


  
Brian Keaton, MD, FACEP  
American College of Emergency Physicians

  
Linda Kloss RHIA, CAE  
AHIMA

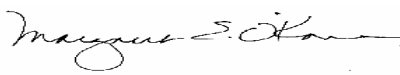
  
Gail Latimer MSN, RN  
Siemens Corporation

  
Mark Leavitt, MD PhD, FHIMSS  
HIMSS

  
Gary Levine  
Medco Health Solutions

  
Janet Marchibroda  
eHealth Initiative

  
Arnold Milstein, MD, MPH  
Pacific Business Group on Health,  
The Leapfrog Group

  
Margaret O'Kane  
National Committee for Quality Assurance

Dennis O'Leary, MD  
Joint Commission on Accreditation of  
Healthcare Organizations

Micky Tripathi  
Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative

J. Marc Overhage, MD, PhD  
Regenstrief Institute for Healthcare

Robert B. Williams, MD, MIS  
Deloitte

Rochelle Woolley  
RxHub

Wes Rishel  
Gartner

William Yasnoff, MD, PhD, FACMI  
NHII Advisors

Steve Shihadeh  
Microsoft Corporation

Clay Shirky  
Interactive Telecommunications Program,  
NYU

Michael Solomon  
IDX Systems Corp

Ellen Stovall  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

Thomas Sullivan, MD  
Women's Health Center Cardiology

## **ENDORSEES WHO COULD NOT PROVIDE E-SIGNATURES**

Colin Evans  
Intel Corporation

John P. Glaser  
Partners HealthCare System

Kevin Hutchinson  
SureScripts

Jack Lewin, MD  
California Medical Association

Howard Messing  
Meditech

Russell J. Ricci, MD  
HealthSTAR Communications

Paul Tang, MD  
Palo Alto Medical Foundation

## **ENDORSEES WHO DRAFTED INDIVIDUAL LETTERS**

Don Detmer, MD, FACMI  
AMIA

C. Anderson Hedberg, MD, FACP  
American College of Physicians

Doug Henley, MD  
American Academy of Family Physicians

Charlene Underwood  
Siemens Corporation

**AMIA** American Medical  
Informatics Association  
*Leaders Shaping the Future of Health Information Technology*

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Chief Executive Officer**  
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August 1, 2005

The Honorable Secretary Michael Leavitt  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington DC

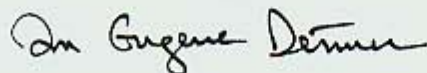
Dear Secretary Leavitt:

On behalf of the American Medical Informatics Association, AMIA wishes to support the nomination of Carol Diamond, MD, Managing Director of the Markle Foundation and the Foundation's leader of the Connecting for Health initiative to the American Health Information Community. Dr. Diamond is a physician whose presence and patience was particularly successful in generating detailed extensive advice to Dr. Brailer and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

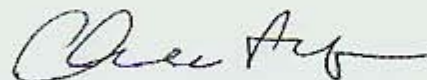
Dr. Diamond is fully committed to advancing nationwide electric health information exchange and as the attached letter reflects, she holds the affection, respect, and full support of distinguished colleagues like Zoë Baird, president of the Markle Foundation and the CFH's vice chairs Dan Garrett, Dr. John Lumpkin and Dr. Herbert Pardes for the AHIC.

Dr. Diamond's appointment would clearly serve as a continuation of the important work of the Connecting for Health Initiative that has been underway for the past several years. We ask you to consider appointing Dr. Diamond to the AHIC.

Sincerely,



Don E. Detmer, MD, MA  
President and CEO, American Medical Informatics Association



Charles Safran, MD  
Chairman, American Medical Informatics Association



C. Anderson Hedberg, MD, FACP  
*President*

August 4, 2005

David J. Brailer, MD, PhD  
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 517D  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Brailer:

The American College of Physicians is pleased to offer this letter of support for Dr. Carol Diamond to be a voting member of the American Health Information Community (AHIC) with the understanding that, if appointed, she will represent one of the non-physician stakeholder groups.

As Chair of Connecting for Health and Managing Director of the Markle Foundation, Dr. Diamond will bring her knowledge and experience of working with researchers, quality improvement organizations, payers, purchasers and the healthcare technology industry to the AHIC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Anderson Hedberg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

C. Anderson Hedberg, MD, FACP

CAH/jdo





August 5, 2005

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Suite 615F  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) is pleased to offer this letter of support for Carol Diamond, M.D. to be a voting member of the American Health Information Community (AHIC) with the understanding that, if appointed, she will represent one of the non-physician stakeholder groups.

The AAFP is an original member of the Connecting for Health initiative of the Markle Foundation. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Steering Committee and in this capacity I have observed Dr. Diamond's knowledge and experience in working with researchers, quality improvement organizations, payers, purchasers and the healthcare technology industry. This experience should qualify her to serve as a member of the AHIC for one of the non-physician stakeholder groups.

Sincerely,

*Douglas E. Henley M.D.*

Douglas E. Henley, M.D.





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A4 Health Systems  
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Cerner Corporation  
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Dairyland Healthcare  
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Eclipsys Corporation  
e-MDs  
Epic Systems Corporation  
GE Healthcare Information  
Technologies  
GEMMS, Inc  
Greenway Medical  
Technologies  
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iMedica, Inc.  
InteGreat  
McKesson Corporation  
MedcomSoft  
Medical Information Systems,  
Inc.  
MediNotes Corporation  
Meditech  
Misys Healthcare Systems  
NextGen Healthcare  
Information System  
Noteworthy Medical Systems  
Physician Micro Systems, Inc.  
PowerMed  
Pulse Systems Incorporated  
Siemens  
SOAPware  
WebMD  
Xpress Technologies

August 4, 2005

The Honorable Michael Leavitt  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, D.C.

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR CAROL DIAMOND NOMINATION TO AHIC**

Dear Secretary Leavitt,

The HIMSS Electronic Health Record Vendors Association (EHRVA) is pleased to support the nomination of Carol C. Diamond MD, MPH, Managing Director of the Markle Foundation and leader of Connecting for Health, to serve as an American Healthcare Information Community (AHIC) Commissioner.

The EHRVA functions as a forum for the electronic health record (EHR) vendor community to speak with a unified voice relative to standards development, the EHR certification process, interoperability, performance and quality measures, and other EHR issues as they become subject to increasing government, insurance and provider driven initiatives and requests. We have collectively responded to the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) requests for proposals (including our proposal for a technology framework for a national health information network); we have published positions on standards and interoperability; and we have workgroups dedicated to supporting government affairs and the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) EHR certification initiative.

The 34 health information technology (HIT) companies represented by the EHRVA serve the majority of healthcare providers in the US, as represented by our combined client bases. As a trade association of EHR vendors, we have a mandate to lead the HIT industry in establishing viable EHR technologies for hospital and ambulatory care settings in the US. In this role, we have submitted a nomination for Glen E. Tullman, CEO of Allscripts, an active EHRVA member firm, as a representative of the vendor community on AHIC.

With this letter, we are also endorsing Dr. Diamond. She is a strong advocate for change in the face of the complex issues challenging our industry, particularly in the area of consumer advocacy. Dr. Diamond and Mr. Tullman would complement one another's strengths and experiences should they be given an opportunity to serve together. As we work together to achieve common goals, EHRVA members have been impressed and motivated by Dr. Diamond's

commitment to the field of healthcare information technology. Her unique ability to bridge various interests with diplomacy and firm resolve is widely respected.

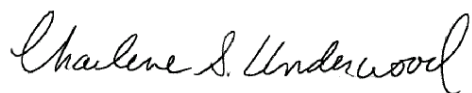
**ABOUT HIMSS EHRVA:**

The EHRVA is a partner of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). Since its inception, the EHRVA has been focused on four key initiatives that complement the AHIC mandate:

- **Accelerating EHR adoption** through collaboration projects such as the ONCHIT RFPs, a NHIN framework proposal, response to CCHIT Phases One and Two reports, and outreach activities to government, industry and provider organizations.
- **The acceptance of a single standard** for the transfer of patient summary information among healthcare providers. Our members are working on harmonizing standards and support the HL7 and CDA standards initiatives, in particular. We are dedicated to ensuring that the agreed-upon standard reflects what is, first, acceptable to clinicians and, second, practical and extensible for EHR developers.
- **Interoperability among EHR technologies** to relieve the expense and complexities of working with systems from disparate provider organizations. The EHRVA is engaged in a variety of initiatives to promote broad interoperability, including security, privacy and reliability.
- **EHR certification** through our support of the work of the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT). Members of the EHRVA participate both as Commissioners and as members of CCHIT Workgroups, and we continue to work toward practical certification to ensure a reduction in the risks and costs of EHR acquisition

We believe the opportunities to improve healthcare delivery in the US far outweigh the challenges and look forward to working with AHIC toward the goals set out for us by President Bush, and as described in Dr. David Brailer's Strategic Framework.

Sincerely,



Charlene Underwood, MBA  
Director, Government and Industry Affairs  
Siemens Medical Solutions  
HIMSS EHRVA Chair

Andy Ury, MD  
President and CEO  
PMSI  
HIMSS EHRVA Co-Chair

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