The ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation has come a long way since the initial idea was proposed in May 2002. The Foundation, www.accefoundation.org, is ramping up its operation and began to implement projects that support the Foundation’s critical mission:

*Improving healthcare delivery by promoting the development and application of safe and effective healthcare technologies through the public awareness and global advancement of clinical engineering research, education, practice and their related activities.*

Though we became formally official in the eyes of the IRS in October 2003, much effort was being focused on the logistical an administration structure issues involved with being a non-profit 501©(3) organization. Steps that needed to establish the platform for our Foundation ranged from the definition of our mission, to the adoption of core values and on to determine how to fulfill our mission. For the Clinical Engineering field to have such a platform where we can influence outcomes and professional future is like a dream come true. At the beginning it seemed that the dream could not be accomplished, but the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation Board of Directors is doing it and is committed to keep the dream alive. Every member of the Board of Directors believed so strongly in the mission of ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation that they pledged and committed monetary, inspirational, and voluntary support to carry that vision forward. That strong support continues to grow and now we have the backing of major corporations such as GE Healthcare, Nellcor, Masimo Corporation, and Medtronic Inc. who also believe in our mission and want us to bring projects to fruition. Projects and deliverables the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation Board develops and approves.

The Public Awareness and Patient Safety Education projects will present a vision for designers, engineers, care providers, technology managers and patients to offer and utilize safe health care technologies which will focus on the improvement of devices safety design, selection processes, use and maintenance of health care technologies and include the important aspect of education of the public and their role as part of the health care delivery system. Currently five topics are slated for implementation:
• Devices designed for the Elderly
• Prevention of oxygen enriched fires in Home Care
• Safety Issues With the Home Care Environment
• Safety Issues Associated with Patient Devices Taken From Home to hospital
• Resource center for Health Care Technology Safety Issues – a website/link compendium.

The Clinical Alarm Management and Integration project will focus on the identification of issues and opportunities to improve clinical alarm design, integration, operation, response, and actions. These are all critical issues affecting patient care at the in-patient and home-care environments. Healthcare provider shortages combined with the exponential growth of technology and systems deployment increase the importance of alarm management strategies, device design, and system integration. ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation has identified management and integration of clinical alarms as a key initiative. The goals for this initiative are:

• Establish baseline data from a comprehensive literature search & closed claims database
• Provide public forums – “Town Meetings” – at a variety of national patient safety, nursing, governmental, medical device industry clinical engineering, and healthcare information technology annual meetings to simulate discussion and gather best practices and ideas (E.G. AAMI, NPSF, HIMSS)
• Develop a website specific to Clinical Alarms Management and Integration
• Educate the professional and lay individuals via publications and planned simulation video available from the website
• Establish task force of participants from a broad range of interested fields
• Reach a consensus on alarm management and integration
• Share the consensus findings with recommendations for healthcare facilities and the home
  • Journal quality white paper
  • Lay article for the public

A few years ago, the ability to become a Certified Clinical Engineer (CCE) was terminated. There was no method for clinical engineering to demonstrate competence, to support professional development and to recognize individuals. ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation created a Healthcare Technology Certification Commission (HTCC) and the US Board of Examiners for Clinical Engineering Certification. 112 previously certified candidates under the ICC platform were recognized under this new program. A psychometrically analyzed exam was developed through the Professional Testing Corporation and provided to applicants in
2003 and 2004. A significant test bank of questions exists. The number of applicants from the initial test cycle to the most recent increased dramatically and the interest continues to grow. The Clinical Engineering Excellence (CE²) program is intended to promote excellence through the creation of an evaluation and recognition program for demonstration of best practices in the management of medical technology in hospitals, outpatient facilities, and at home. Since the evolution of the Clinical Engineering there was a need for defining and for promoting a model for optimal selection, adoption and management of medical technology at the point-of-care being in the hospital or at home. Now, ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation has embarked upon the creation of the Clinical Engineering Excellence (CE²) program. The program objective is the promotion of a best practices model for technology management within institutions that deliver healthcare services with community outreach. Through the recognition of excellence in clinical engineering services this program will enable improvement in deployment of technology throughout in our health care delivery system. The CE² program will begin with a committee that will be charged with the development of assessment methodology, qualification requirements, scoring guidelines, and processing criteria for applications to the clinical engineering excellence program. A review and survey process will culminate in a recognition award process allowing the winning program to present their successful practice.

All of these exciting initiatives are occurring now within the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation. We have the definition of the dreams and projects and also the resources to make it happen. Eighteen months ago we were hoping now we are doing. None of these projects would be in existence if it were not for the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation and the support it has received. We ask that you continue this evolution and support the Foundation’s mission either personally or through your daily contacts. More information is available at our website: http://www.accefoundation.org

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