

## Proceedings

# The Atlantic Rim Telemedicine Summit

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### ABSTRACT

**The Transatlantic Telemedicine Summit was convened to facilitate the international exchange of ideas and experiences regarding anticipated obstacles to the deployment of telemedicine in and among Atlantic Rim countries. Presented here is a review and summary of the Summit, as well as the principal recommendations derived from the proceedings. These recommendations provide a basis for the further development of cooperative efforts in international telemedicine.**

### INTRODUCTION

**T**HE PRECEDENT SETTING TRANSATLANTIC TELEMEDICINE SUMMIT (TTS) was held in May 1997 in Boston.\* The meeting brought together a diverse group of some 240 telemedicine policy makers, health care practitioners, and technology providers from 20 countries on both sides of the Atlantic (see Appendix). The TTS derived in part from a recognition of the potential for telemedicine to facilitate international health care delivery, the recent development of professional associations with telemedicine interests in North America and Europe, the need for coordinating activities in telemedicine on both sides of the Atlantic, and

recognition that Atlantic Rim countries could serve as a regional testbed for the global development and deployment of telemedicine technology and services.

The objective of the TTS was to assemble an international group of telemedicine practitioners, policymakers, and researchers from the private and public sectors. Through presentations and discussion, the meeting was designed to encourage the identification of common concerns, exchange of experiences, and promotion of shared recommendations for action.

Over the course of 3 days, plenary panels, discussions, and action panels were convened dealing with issues pertaining to the develop-

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\*The Summit benefited from the endorsements and participation of some notable individuals. Among those were: Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien; United States Vice President Al Gore; Alan Donnelly, Chairman of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the United States; United States Federal Communications Commissioner Reed Hundt; Jean-Claude Healy, European Commission Coordinator for Health Care Telematics; United States Senator Edward Kennedy; United States Congressmen Edward Markey and Joe Moakley; Navy Surgeon General Vice Admiral Harold Koenig, Brigadier General Russ Zajchuk of the United States Army Medical Corps; Michel Richonnier, Head of the European Commission's Directorate General XIII; and, the American, Canadian, and French Telemedicine Associations.

Among the sponsors who made the Summit possible were the Telemedicine Technology Area Directorate of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command, System Resources Corporation, Partners Health Care System, World Trade Center Boston, American Medical Development, PictureTel Corporation, VTEL Corporation, Raytheon, Lahey Hitchcock Clinic, Apple Computer Inc., Digital Image FX, Inc., Viacron Medical Services, Inc., NEC Corporation, The Port and City of Rotterdam, Peace Engineering Council, NYNEX, TSD Communication Services, Fraunhofer CRCG, Inc., Eastman Kodak Company, ESC/MILSATCOM, SatelLife, the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, the City of Boston, and the Alsace Development Agency, Inc.