

Adam B. Cohen, MD

Young Clinician Award 2010

Investigator Profile

Education

- MD, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, 2004
- BS, Marine Biology - Paleobiology, University of Michigan, 2000



Clinical/Professional Appointment

- Associate Neurologist, BWH
- Fellow, Department of Radiology, Neuroradiology, BWH
- Instructor, Harvard Medical School

Recent Honors and Awards

- 2008, Neurology Chief Resident, BWH-MGH
- 2008, Neurology Resident Teacher of the Year, BWH-MGH
- Excellence in Teaching, Harvard Medical School Class of 2007

Impact on Care

- The current means by which tertiary care specialists offer their expertise is inefficient. This leads to delayed diagnoses, management, and improvement of health; unnecessary office visits, and inappropriate use of resources that might be used in more effective ways.
- Consultation is currently delivered through informal "curbsides" or full office visits. The proposed solution aims to formalize curbside consultation to better equip referring doctors by providing a platform for efficient determination of the level of consultation and triaging required. It offers a more efficient means of getting the right doctor to the right patient at the right time.

development of a web-based platform that allows information exchange in the form of formalized curbside consultations and triage requests between referring physicians and tertiary care consultants

- The expected outcomes of this project:
 1. increased office-based consultation case-mix index
 2. increased access to consultants and better care through improved communication and direct information exchange
 3. improvement in the consultation experience
 4. cutting inefficiency from the consultation system through elimination of unnecessary office visits
 5. connecting the right patient with the right physician as quickly as possible.

Abstract

In the current environment dominated by full office consultation as the standard of care, tertiary care clinics may have a high proportion of patients for whom the clinical issues could be addressed through alternative non-clinical-based means. This comes at an expense to patients, providers, and payers. Although the major current forms of American telemedicine are making great strides in increasing access to specialists, they do not necessarily address efficient use of specialty care.

Through a web-based interface, the proposed solution offers a more efficient means of tertiary care specialty consultation and triaging through the following mechanisms:

1. Electronic-information exchange between referring doctors and specialists
2. Specialty-specific and clinical problem-based social networks
3. Specific educational materials tailored to the case and consult request

Although there are many challenges to improving the delivery of tertiary care consultation and triaging, there is an enormous opportunity to create more order and value in a system that sorely needs it.

