



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### For additional information, contact:

Emily Mata | Marketing & Communications Manager  
Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services  
517.745.8835 | [emily.mata@mihin.org](mailto:emily.mata@mihin.org)

## Dr. Michael Klinkman Elected as Co-Chair of the Gravity Project Technical Advisory Committee

*Klinkman a family physician, Consulting SDoH Program Medical Director for MiHIN*

**LANSING, Mich.** – Dr. Michael Klinkman has been elected as co-chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which provides technical and expert input to the Gravity Project, a national public collaborative that develops consensus-based data standards to improve how we use and share information on social determinants of health (SDoH). Klinkman has been a practicing family physician for over 30 years and serves as the consulting Medical Director for the Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services' (MiHIN) SDoH Program.

Klinkman's academic work has focused on developing the human and technical infrastructure needed to support integrated primary health care. At the University of Michigan, he led the small team that designed, implemented and licensed ClinfoTracker, a clinical decision support software application eventually used in primary care practices across the US. He also developed a depression care support program and its supporting IT platform (the M-DOCC Clinical Record) for primary care providers, used in several academic and community primary care practices throughout Michigan.

"My work has always been focused on harnessing health IT to improve everyday primary care practice and to connect patients, clinicians, and the community to improve community health and wellness," said Klinkman. "I am proud to work with the Gravity Project as they convene stakeholders from across the health and human services ecosystem to develop content and technical standards for social care data interoperability. I'm aware of the challenges ahead, but I'm looking forward to the contribution I can make as co-chair of the TAC."

The Gravity Project was initiated in November 2018 by SIREN with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to convene broad stakeholder groups in identifying and harmonizing social risk factor data for interoperable electronic health information exchange.

The project is a direct response to recommendations and calls to action around creating national standards for representing SDoH data in EHRs. Growing evidence demonstrates strong links between social risk and an individual's health and health care utilization. This correlation has increasingly led health systems to incorporate social risk data into clinical decision making to improve health outcomes and help reduce costs.



“The Gravity Project is doing pivotal work to expand interoperability across the country and accelerate standards-based information exchange—two things that Michael has worked extensively on over the course of his career,” said Tim Pletcher, DHA, Executive Director of MiHIN. “Michael has dedicated his life to improving healthcare and health outcomes for the people of Michigan. From his work as a family physician to the contributions he has made in academics, Michael is a steadfast anchor in the health information community. He will bring a plethora of experience and invaluable insight to the Gravity board.”

For the past several years, Klinkman has worked to create community information exchanges to support integrated health and social care delivery, as well as developing a process to reduce power disparities that undermine collaborations. Through his contributions to the State Innovation Model demonstration project in Michigan, he helped to co-create a shared care model and a simple, scalable technology infrastructure to support cross-sector care which has served as a model for other communities to create social provider organizations which can make cross-sector care possible.

Klinkman has consulted with MiHIN since January 2020 and was brought into the Medical Director position for the SDoH program on Sept. 1, 2021. In these roles, he works collaboratively to develop a statewide approach towards infrastructure that supports cross-sector care.

He was officially announced as a co-chair on Oct. 7, 2021 and will serve a two-year term.

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### **About Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services**

The Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services (MiHIN) is Michigan’s state-designated entity to improve healthcare quality, efficiency, and patient safety by sharing electronic health information statewide, helping reduce costs for patients, providers, and payers. MiHIN is a nonprofit, public-private collaboration that includes stakeholders from the State of Michigan, Health Information Exchanges serving Michigan, health systems and providers, health plans/payers, pharmacies, and the Governor’s Health Information Technology Commission. For more information, visit <https://mihin.org>.

