



*Advancing biomedical discovery and improving health through mobile sensor big data*

*Cornell Tech + Georgia Tech + U. Memphis + Northwestern + Ohio State + Open mHealth  
Rice + UCLA + UC San Diego + UC San Francisco + UMass Amherst + U. Michigan + WVU*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MD2K CENTER TO HOST DIRECTORS FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, OTHER MOBILE HEALTH RESEARCHERS**

**NIH's Bourne, Riley to discuss Big Data to Knowledge and Precision Medicine initiatives; MD2K to showcase current progress.**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Two leading scientists from the National Institutes of Health will be in Memphis Sept. 15 to speak to Mid-South biomedical researchers and mobile health thought leaders. **Dr. Phil Bourne**, Associate Director for Data Science (ADDS) and **Dr. William Riley**, Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) will be in Memphis to participate in the annual meeting of the Center of Excellence for Mobile Sensor Data-to-Knowledge (MD2K). Following the speaking engagement, MD2K will have a public poster exhibition to showcase the research completed so far in the Center's existence.

The speaking appearances are hosted by MD2K in conjunction with the FedEx Institute of Technology and the University of Memphis. The talks by Bourne and Riley will focus on the latest developments in NIH's Big Data-to-Knowledge (BD2K) and Precision Medicine (PMI) initiatives and allow for attendees an exclusive chance for informative, interactive conversation. The MD2K Center, which is based at the U of M, is an active participant in both initiatives. Along with Center Director, **Dr. Santosh Kumar**, other MD2K team members will be in attendance to give an overview of the research completed so far: **Dr. Jim Rehg**, Professor in the School of Interactive Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology, will discuss data science research; **Dr. William Abraham**, Deputy Director of the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, will discuss congestive heart failure management; **Dr. Bonnie Spring**, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Psychology and Psychiatry and also the Director of Northwestern University's Center for Behavior and Health will discuss smoking cessation applications; **Dr. Ida Sim**, Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco and co-founder of Open mHealth will discuss medical informatics; **Dr. Vivek Shetty**, Professor of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery and Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Research at the University of California, Los Angeles, will discuss mHealth Training; **Dr. Clay Marsh**, Vice President and Executive Dean for Health Sciences at West Virginia University will discuss innovation and healthcare; **Dr. Susan Murphy**, Distinguished University Professor of Statistics, Professor of Psychiatry and Research Professor, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan and member of the National Academies' Institute of Medicine will discuss clinical trials and microrandomization; **Dr. Gregory D. Abowd**, Regents' and Distinguished Professor in the School of Interactive Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology, will discuss human-centered applications of mobile and ubiquitous computing technologies; **Dr. Mustafa al'Absi**, Chair and Professor of Behavioral Medicine at the University of Minnesota, will discuss neurobiology of stress, appetite regulation, and tobacco addiction; **Dr. David W. Wetter**, Chair in the Department of Psychology at Rice University and a Professor at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, will discuss health-related behavior through translational research.



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The speaking engagement with Dr. Bourne and Dr. Riley will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the Zone at the FedEx Institute of Technology, with the public poster exhibition from the MD2K investigators to commence in the FedEx Institute lobby immediately following. For more information on the full 2015 MD2K Annual Meeting please go to the meeting webpage at: <https://md2k.org/meetings/md2k2015/>.

### **About MD2K**

MD2K seeks to advance biomedical discovery and improve health through the use of mobile sensor Big Data. The center is one of 11 national Big Data Centers of Excellence awarded by the National Institutes of Health in October 2014, and is a consortium of 12 universities and university medical centers, including the University of Memphis, Cornell Tech, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, the Ohio State University, West Virginia University, Northwestern University, Rice University, University of California (UC), Los Angeles, UC-San Diego, UC-San Francisco, and the University of Michigan. Directed by Dr. Santosh Kumar of the University of Memphis, the center's 22 collaborating investigators collectively represent the best and brightest minds in data science, mobile sensing, and biomedical research. The MD2K Team is developing innovative tools to make it easier to gather, analyze and interpret health data generated by mobile and wearable sensors. The goal of the big data solutions being developed by MD2K are to reliably quantify physical, biological, behavioral, social, and environmental factors that contribute to health and disease risk.

For more information on MD2K: <https://md2k.org/>

### **About the BD2K Initiative**

BD2K is a trans-NIH initiative established to enable biomedical research as a digital research enterprise, to facilitate discovery and support new knowledge, and to maximize community engagement. Overall, the focus of the BD2K program is to support the research and development of innovative and transforming approaches and tools to maximize and accelerate the integration of Big Data and data science into biomedical research. Currently BD2K supports 11 Big Data Centers of Excellence.

For more information on the BD2K initiative: <https://datascience.nih.gov/bd2k>

### **About the Precision Medicine Initiative**

Precision medicine is an emerging approach to treating and preventing disease by taking into account individual variability in genes, environment and lifestyle. The Precision Medicine Initiative was announced by President Obama in January, calling for \$215 million in initial funding in the Fiscal 2016 budget. The goal of the PMI is to develop a new model of patient-powered research that will accelerate biomedical discoveries and provide clinicians with new tools, knowledge, and therapies so they can choose which treatments will work best for which patients. As part of the initiative, a research cohort of 1 million people is being established to help scientists better understand disease and

its treatment.

For more information on the Precision Medicine Initiative: <http://www.nih.gov/precisionmedicine/>

### **About FedEx Institute of Technology**

The FedEx Institute of Technology (FIT) serves as the front door to the University of Memphis research infrastructure, and is home to the MD2K Center. The Institute was designed to bridge the gap between industry and academic research in a state-of-the-art building on the campus of the University of Memphis. The FedEx Institute supports the next generation of start-ups with programs that help entrepreneurs develop their own companies through the Crews Center for Entrepreneurship, serves as a gateway to introduce business leaders to the University's vast resources in research via corporate engagement, and boldly invests in promising new innovations that have the potential to be breakthrough commercial products through the Technology Transfer Office.

For more information about the FedEx Institute of Technology: <http://www.memphis.edu/fedex/>