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Award Number: MIPR OEC5DR0077

TITLE: Oncology Outreach Evaluation

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Washington, DC 20307-5001

REPORT DATE: May 2000

TYPE OF REPORT: Midterm

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

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20010720 048

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGEForm Approved
OMB No. 074-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE May 2000	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Midterm (15 Feb 00 - 30 Sep 00)	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Oncology Outreach Evaluation			5. FUNDING NUMBERS MIPR OEC5DR0077	
6. AUTHOR(S) Brian Goldsmith				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Walter Reed Army Medical Center Washington, DC 20307-5001 E-MAIL: brian.goldsmith@amedd.army.mil			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012			10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; Distribution unlimited			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words)				
14. SUBJECT TERMS			15. NUMBER OF PAGES	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Unclassified		18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE Unclassified	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Unlimited

NSN 7540-01-280-5500

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89)
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39-18
298-102

MidTerm Overall Evaluation Report

PROPOSAL: 1999000255

TITLE: Oncology Outreach Evaluation

1. ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The Internet Tumor Board (ITB) project has been declared a success at Tripler Army Medical Center and was transferred from the research and development group to the hospital. In their after action report, the investigators specifically noted that the ITB allowed broader access to medical care, easier access to the Tripler health care system, and better utilization of specialists than the system (air-evac) previously in use. Questions left unanswered dealt with how the rapidly changing nature of the internet would affect the routine of the ITB. It was noted that some outcome issues, such as medical efficacy and patient outcome were difficult to measure objectively. Clinicians involved in the ITB had positive feedback and wish to continue its operation. As of this writing, the Principal Investigator, Brian Goldsmith, has ETS'd, and the technical contact at Tripler AMC is no longer available as a reference. John Statler, MAJ, MC has been named as the new PI. Currently, no representative from WRAMC has working knowledge of the internet tumor board. Per discussion with Mr. Tracy from the TAMC development office, there has been very little documentation of the software currently in use for the Tripler ITB. Dr. Statler, Dr. Dan Rayburn, and Mr. Tom Bigott went TDY to Tripler during the week of 18 SEP 00 and were successful in 1) obtaining copies of the software currently in use to run the ITB, 2) obtaining specifications for hardware needed to support the tumor board and 3) interfacing with the clinicians currently using the internet tumor board in order to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the system. All physicians interviewed were pleased with the ITB as in its present form. The plan for the coming year is to continue with the implementation of the ITB linking Walter Reed with remote sites including Germany and other locations in Europe. The goal is that, as with Tripler, the air- evac system can be streamlined and only those patients with specific needs are returned to the CONUS. The ITB will also function to provide CME credits to physicians practicing in remote locations. It is hoped that the ITB will also strengthen the oncology referral system currently in place, and foster an academic environment between the medical center and referring clinics.

2. PROBLEMS:

As described above, no representatives at WRAMC have a working knowledge of the ITB or its software. No individual consultant is available to use as a reference in these issues. This has largely been remedied by our TDY to Tripler. We are considering retaining the services of the technical consultant responsible for the establishment of the Tripler ITB in order to help construct the WRAMC system.

3. LIFE-CYCLE:

The plan for the second half of the project cycle will be to 1) implement software and hardware necessary to support the ITB, 2) identify remote areas which will benefit from participation in an ITB with Walter Reed, 3) position hardware and software at these areas and 4) establish the ITB as a regularly scheduled inter-departmental meeting.

4. DELIVERABLES:

At the current rate, the project deliverable date is 1 AUG 01.