

Tuesday, 28 February 2012 12:49

Summa Western Reserve Highlighted In Ohio Medical Initiative

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Medical institutions included in the state's accelerated broadband internet network are pleased with the quick results.

[The Center of Pain Medicine at Summa Western Reserve Hospital](#) was highlighted in Ohio Governor John Kasich's tour of the state's medical corridor earlier this week.

Chairman for center, [Dr. Samer Narouze](#), joined 1590 WAKR's Ray Horner on Tuesday morning to talk about the changes in bandwidth and how the Cuyahoga Falls benefits from the improved service.

Dr. Narouze emphasized the positives of downloading and sharing files that are large in size. He says doctors often send images, scans and x-rays, as well as conducting conferencing within the state, country and doctors in other countries.

"Sometimes it's challenging, it's cumbersome to share those such files in a sufficient manner," Dr. Narouze said.

He said the new broadband is close to ten times faster than their current services.

"Now it takes hours and hours, with this high speed Internet, it will take a couple of minutes to load many, many files," he said.

Press Release:

Governor Kasich Promotes Ohio's Medical Technology Corridor State's Increased Network Bandwidth Speeds Will Solidify Ohio's Standing in Cutting Edge Medical F

Following his State of the State announcement of a ten-fold boost to OARnet's statewide network bandwidth, Governor Kasich today reaffirmed the benefits of the accelerated network as he toured the latest advancements in research and technology of Ohio's medical corridor. Doctors and researchers at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Summa Western Reserve Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls and University of Cincinnati Medical Center showcased the latest research technology and discussed how accelerated bandwidth of 100 Gigabits per second (Gbps) will allow them to collaborate on a global scale—greatly enhancing the state's medical corridor as a leading clinical innovation.

Under a recently approved agreement with Cisco and Juniper, Ohio will invest approximately \$10 million to harness new innovative technology that will, in essence, "unleash the faucet" of Ohio's current broadband infrastructure, over 1,850 miles of fiber, from its current 10 Gbps capacity to an impressive 100 Gbps.

Ali Rezai, M.D., professor and chair of Ohio State's Department of Neurological Surgery demonstrated an advanced procedure to treat a patient diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and discussed the benefits of high capacity broadband communications.

"Ohio's enhanced 100 Gbps broadband capability will greatly facilitate our clinical, research and training programs," Rezai said. "We can remotely evaluate patient clinical data, monitor and optimize their programming/adjustments, review structural and functional brain imaging, and assess intra-operative brain recording and mapping to guide surgical implantation at other institutions. This capability can facilitate our specific multiple research efforts not just within Ohio, but also with leading institutions like NYU, Rochester, Vanderbilt, Mount Sinai and Thomas Jefferson University."

Dr. Joseph Broderick, Chairman of University of Cincinnati's Medical Center Department of Neurology also spoke of how Ohio's broadband technology will benefit his work using telemedicine to facilitate treatments for stroke patients. Broderick highlighted the technology challenges the medical research community faces in transmitting information, particularly complex genomic data that consumes so much capacity and bandwidth that current broadband speeds can't handle. Ohio's new 100 Gbps network will change that.

"Up until now, the only way to transmit this type of data was to physically load it onto large external hard drives and ship them between institutions," Broderick said. "At unprecedented speeds, we will be able to transmit this type of data in minutes at the click of a button."

Dr. Samer Narouze M.D., Chairman, Center for Pain Medicine at Summa Western Reserve Hospital, also joined by videoconference to discuss new, innovative procedures used by the medical community in Akron and how Ohio's extensive broadband network will benefit the state for training doctors on the newest clinical procedures.

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"Ohio is already a national leader both in advanced medical procedures and its unsurpassed connectivity within the state and to the broader national medical community," said Governor Kasich. "Increasing the speed and capacity of this network will help expand medical training and make Ohio an advanced competitor for federal research grants."

"Ohio has a rich history as a pioneer of innovation whether it's our role in aviation, the Space Race, or, today, in the information technology race," said Governor Kasich. "Ohio has tremendous advanced resources in medical research that are the envy of the nation, and this is just the beginning. Enhancing our already impressive broadband with minimal investment is certain to reap benefits for our next chapter in innovation and growth."

This expansion leverages the fiber optic network operated by OARnet, a member of the Ohio Board of Regents Ohio Technology Consortium. The 100 Gbps network connects Ohio's major metropolitan areas to northern and southern connection points of Internet2, a nationwide advanced networking consortium led by the research and education community, spanning U.S. and international institutions who are leaders in the worlds of research, academia, industry and government.

For the network, \$8.1 million will fund hardware development for Phase 1, which will connect Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo by June 2012 and markets of Akron, Athens and Youngstown by October 2012.
