



Conference Overview

The 2015 VPS User Conference, hosted in New Orleans, proved to carry on from the success of the 2013 VPS Conference held previously in Los Angeles. With over 130 people in attendance and a packed interactive agenda, the conference focused on interests of VPS data collection teams and overall users of VPS data. Site Coordinators and Data Collectors from around the country came together to share and learn ways to optimize data input, team management, and data utilization. Use of VPS data for improvement and research purposes was explored through numerous recent and ongoing projects brought by researchers, medical directors, operational leaders, site coordinators, and other intuitive users of VPS's data. The conference also served as a platform for user's to provide input on ideas to develop and enhance the VPS application and where a number of upcoming VPS releases could be demonstrated.

Highlights:

“Key Note Address”

Inspiring presentations from leaders of the Virtual Pediatric Systems, LLC (“VPS”) reflected on the past, present and future of VPS. Dr. Ramesh Sachdeva, VPS’s CSO (Associate Executive Director, American Academy of Pediatrics), challenged the collective VPS Community to change the landscape of pediatric quality through utilization of optimized data systems such as VPS.

Throughout the conference, Dr. Randall Wetzels, VPS’s CEO (Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles), led interactive discussions on how best to enrich the VPS application for current and future uses.

“Impacting Change through the Utilization of VPS’s Data”

Leaders from Colorado Children’s, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Minnesota and Omaha Children’s presented work in which they have successfully used VPS data to impact change within their respective units.

- ❖ Improved patient flow in and out of the PICU and shaping care model planning
- ❖ Recognized changes in local patient population before the Center for Disease Control officially announced outbreak
- ❖ Provided supportive evidence to advocate and acquire additional staffing resources to meet patient needs based on information not found in administrative databases



- ❖ Best practices in presentation formats to successfully share VPS data throughout the local institutions

“Synergies and Productivity of the Data Collection Team”

VPS data collection teams from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Children’s Hospital of Atlanta, and Kaiser Permanente shared insights and strategies to develop and maintain strong teams in large or multiple ICU settings. Ken Alexander, Louisiana Hospital Association, and Sheila Veuleman, VPS’s Quality Analyst II, provided a motivational approach to leveraging team productivity.

“Team Hurdles: Roundtables”

VPS experts led three interactive roundtable discussions on common difficulties encountered as a VPS team or a single data collector. Users were able to select up to three sessions to attend;

- ❖ Help I’m Behind! I Need More People!
- ❖ Getting it Out There: Sharing VPS with My Hospital
- ❖ How Best to Engage My VPS Physician Leader
- ❖ Download and Use Your VPS Data Like an Expert
- ❖ Understanding the Statistics in VPS Performance Reports
- ❖ Techie Encounters of the Worst Kind
- ❖ Creating a Roadmap in Data Collection

“Tech Tips and Updates”

The Tech team provided insights on recent VPS application updates while also introducing upcoming functionalities with a live demonstration of a new and customizable VPS Analytics tool coming to the application in June 2015.

- ❖ Browser Support
- ❖ User Snap Bug Reporting
- ❖ Help Center
- ❖ Downloading Local Data
- ❖ Security Enhancement

- ❖ VPS 7 Updates
 - New data points, quality verifications, and capability to make technical adjustments quickly
 - VPS 6 to be retired by July 2015
- ❖ New VPS Neuro Critical Care Module Pilot
 - Presented by Dr. Jose Pineda, St. Louis Children’s Hospital
- ❖ VPS Analytics & Reporting
 - Going live June 2015

“Impacting Change with VPS Data”

Numerous projects and studies leveraging VPS data were presented for a comprehensive view of how the VPS system supports improvements in pediatric critical care. Highlights include: research efforts related to center volume and impact on patient outcomes, procedure specific cardiac outcomes, linking VPS with other systems to transform data into useful information, and impacting accountable care and legislative action outside of the ICU with VPS foundational data. The presentations included;

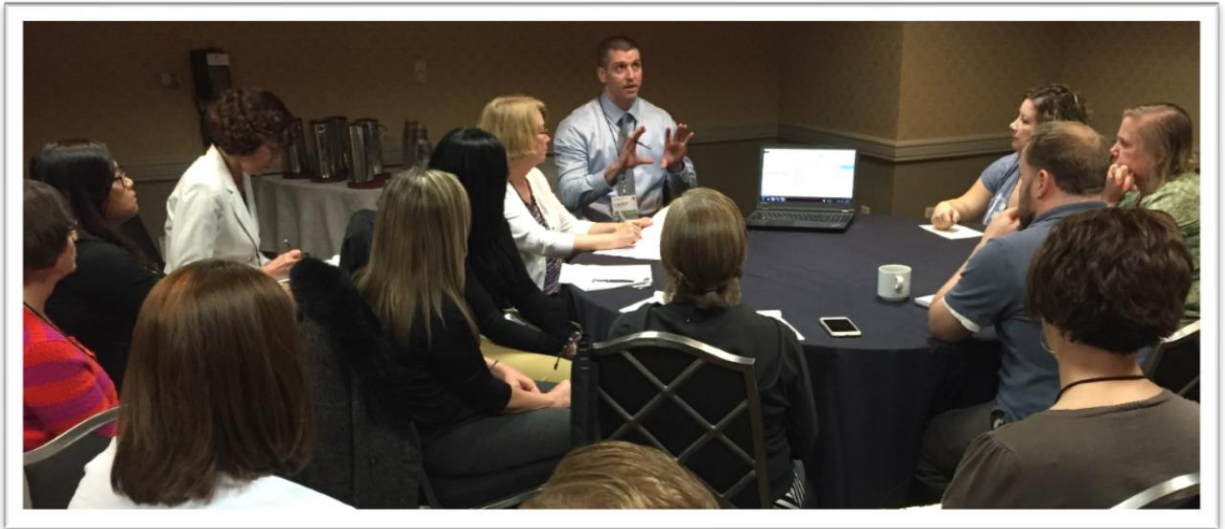
- ❖ Dr. Theresa Mikhailov, Children’s Hospital Wisconsin: “Using VPS to Understand the Impact of Nutrition on Outcomes in the PICU”
- ❖ Justi O’Flynn, Kosair Children’s Hospital: “Using VPS Outside the Wall of the PICU”
- ❖ Dr. Katy Flynn-O’Brien, University of Washington: “Pediatric TBI: ICPM and CT scan Utilization Variability and Non-Mortality Outcomes”
- ❖ Dr. Randall Wetzel, VPS’s CEO: “Center-Volume and Mortality Among ICUs Caring for Pediatric Cardiac Patients”
- ❖ Dr. Tom Rice, VPS’s CMO: “Standardized Mortality Ratios for Most Frequent Cardiac Surgical Procedures Utilizing PICSIM”
- ❖ Dr. Emilie Henry, Oklahoma City: “Using VPS to Assess Impact of Advance Practice Staffing Changes”
- ❖ Dr. Punkaj Gupta, Arkansas Children’s Hospital: “Association of Center Volume with Outcomes of In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest in Children with Critical Illness”
- ❖ Dr. Mary Fallat, Kosair Children’s Hospital and Dr. Katy Flynn-O’Brien, University of Washington: “Improving Patient Outcomes Through Data Quality: A Trauma Registry/VPS Partnership”
- ❖ Dr. Barry Markovitz, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles: “Is There a Volume - Outcome Relationship in Pediatric Critical Care?”
- ❖ Dr. Michael Forbes, Akron Children’s Hospital: “Geo-Mapping Preschool Trauma to Inform Accountable Care”
- ❖ Dr. Catherine Albin, Kaiser Permanente: “Alignment of a Health System Through VPS”
- ❖ Dr. Heidi Flori, Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland: “Sepsis Monitoring”

“Poster Exhibit”

A poster exhibit provided opportunity to view numerous works by colleagues that incorporated VPS data. Please visit <http://www.myvps.org/user-meeting.html> to download any of the nine (9) posters or the PowerPoint presentations.

“Networking”

The information packed conference agenda provided numerous opportunities to network with colleagues from around the world on best practices to optimize VPS data submission and utilization among the VPS Community.





**We Look Forward to Seeing You at the Next
VPS User Conference in Fall 2016!**