OpenMRS is a global community dedicated to creating the world’s most effective open-source EMR platform to improve healthcare delivery in low-resource environments.
Letter to the Community

Happy 2018! As we enter into OpenMRS’ fourteenth year, I am regularly reminded of the amazing power of community. It’s anywhere you look: from the hundreds of new code contributions to our code base by dozens of new contributors each month, to the hundreds of “helping hand” communications on our forums, to the tireless efforts of our infrastructure, internship, and leadership teams. Our community has an amazing, uncanny ability to aggressively advance our mission, 24 hours a day seven days a week. As someone who can remember the days when the community members could be counted on one hand, it’s hard not to be proud of what everyone – collectively – has accomplished.

During our recent annual OpenMRS Implementers’ Meeting in Malawi, we heard from many countries who are in the process of implementing OpenMRS themselves at national scale, and many others who are in the process of learning how to do the same. We witnessed the continued growth and proliferation of OpenMRS Distributions. We had the opportunity to meet many amazing contributors face-to-face, watch many friendships deepen, and many more partnerships form. we walked away from Lilongwe convinced that the community’s best days are yet to come.

So we present this third iteration of our OpenMRS Community Annual Report to the world, with an emboldened sense of mission, and with a considerable amount of pride for what we’ve accomplished together. While this report presents you with our reflection of the highlights of 2017, we compiled it acknowledging the catalytic events that mark the next phase of our community’s growth. For years, our community has committed to practically demonstrate the value of a digital health public good to the larger global health community, during times where our model wasn’t well understood. Over the past year, we are gratified to see both the growing recognition of OpenMRS’ value proposition to the world, and also the recognition of what a project like OpenMRS needs to be supported for years to come. That said, we anticipate that 2018 will mark a period of considerable community and organizational growth.

Those who currently participate within our community, and the growing numbers of those who express interest in getting more involved are deeply committed to our mission. That mission focuses upon improving the health of the underserved by collaborating on tools, technologies, and approaches to better health record keeping. In this period of growth, it’s even more important to hold steadfast to prioritizing the needs of the poorest of the poor, and empowering these communities to help themselves by working alongside them in strong solidarity.

Please take a moment to read through this annual report, and celebrate your contributions, and the broader impact that your commitment to OpenMRS has to your community and to others around you. While you could choose to spend your time in any number of ways, you chose to spend time within our community, and there’s no question that your contributions have made a difference. Thank you for your commitment to health equity, and we look forward to working with you more closely in the months and years to come!

In solidarity,
Paul
Mission & Strategy

The OpenMRS community believes that we can substantially improve the health of under-served populations by enhancing the utilization of health information.

We share a common mission, vision, and values to enable broad scale successful use of electronic medical record systems in diverse care settings to improve the health of under-served populations.

Community

To realize our vision, we committed to the following goals in 2017:

- Develop and evolve the foundational technical products of our community
- Develop and evolve a pre-configured electronic medical record application meant to be used directly in health delivery settings
- Actively encourage and support the development of additional OpenMRS Distributions, deriving and disseminating best practices and technologies from them
- Educate individuals, institutions, and companies on building, implementing, and maintaining OpenMRS and related health information technologies
- Help organizations successfully implement OpenMRS by cultivating and participating in an ecosystem of effective partnerships
- Ensure that the operations of OpenMRS are maximized for efficiency and effectiveness for the community as well as external partners

Principles

In addition to our community values, we adhere to the Principles for Digital Development (digitalprinciples.org) that are living guidelines for technology enabled organizations.

Diversity

The OpenMRS Mission includes a commitment to fostering and supporting a community of inclusion that reflects our commitment to health equity as well as the communities that we serve. OpenMRS is committed to actively cultivating and leveraging a diverse community that is accessible to everyone.
OpenMRS Implementations

More than 3,037 sites & 8.7 million active patients

Albania
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Bangladesh
Belarus
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Chile
Colombia
D.R.C.
Ecuador
Ethiopia
Gambia
Georgia
Ghana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Israel
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Mexico
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Svalbard
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Uganda
Ukraine
United States
Vietnam
Zimbabwe
... and more!

1,845 sites & 6.3 million active patients reported in 2016
1,149 sites & 5.1 million active patients reported in 2015
In 2017, our community members supported the OpenMRS mission through overwhelming community engagement, active development of our software products, and increased support of our implementations around the world. Our annual Implementers’ Conference was held in Lilongwe, Malawi from December 12-16 and echoed the enthusiasm from the previous year’s meeting! A total of 175 members from 20 countries attended to learn more about how Malawi plans to achieve a nationwide implementation of OpenMRS, as well as share their knowledge, experience, and challenges to fellow developers and implementers.

Here are a few 2017 stats from OpenMRS Talk, our online hub for community interaction:

- **New Community Members**: 948
- **Total Talk Visits**: 29,986 (+8% compared to 2016)
- **Talk Topics Created**: 2,816 (+13% compared to 2016)
- **Talk Posts Written**: 20,323 (+5% compared to 2016)
#OMRS17

In December 2017 we held our 11th Implementers’ Conference in Lilongwe Malawi, where 175 community members from 20 different countries gathered to share experiences, collaborate, and learn about new developments. Photos can be seen at om.rs/17photos
Committers in 2017:

30% Returning
70% New

209 developers from around the globe made 4,250 commits to 112 code repositories in the OpenMRS GitHub organization in 2017.

OpenMRS Core:
84 people made 598 commits

Core Apps Module:
20 people made 350 commits

Sync 2.0 Module:
8 people made 191 commits

Add-on Index:
11 people made 142 commits
In 2017 we introduced a new Platform release line and two new Reference Application releases, as well as multiple maintenance releases for the supported Platform release lines.

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**Platform**

*Version 2.1.2 Volunteer Release Manager - Irene Nyakate*

In December 2017 OpenMRS rolled out a new minor platform release line. The December release contained a number of bug fixes as well as additional new features.

**Highlights of Platform 2.1.x include:**

- Enhanced Obs model to support interpretation and status from FHIR
- Enhanced Cohort model to support start and end dates
- Performance improvements (patient searches using Lucene, support for hibernate caching)
- Support for MySQL 5.7
- Lots of bug fixes
- Major code cleanup

For more details, see the Release Notes on our Wiki.

**Reference Application**

*Version 2.7 Volunteer Release Manager - Tendo Kiiza Martin*

The OpenMRS Reference Application is a graphical user interface built on top of the OpenMRS Platform, that provides point-of-care EMR functionality. The three versions released in 2017 added incremental improvements to functionality, provided bug fixes, and added new features.

**Features of the reference application are:**

- Clinical data capture (Allergies, Vitals, Diagnoses, Visit Notes, etc)
- Patient Management (Patient Registration, ADT)
- Patient Summaries, extensible with custom widgets
- Powerful Configuration features (concept dictionary, location hierarchies, role-based homepages)
- Multilingual
- Highly extensible (forming the basis of multiple OpenMRS distributions)
“OpenMRS has helped me personally and professionally by encouraging me to work more collaboratively. I’ve also made a lot of friends! The hospitality of the community encourages me to contribute and share as much as possible. I think I’ve fallen in love with OpenMRS! XD”

- Chine Zoheir, Algeria

“It was a great experience being in the conference. For the first time, I saw how big OpenMRS is and how it grew from the beginning and it made me feel very honored to be a part of it. It was fascinating to see the Baobab system in Malawi and how it improves the work-flow of treatment and treatment of the patient. I hope that Mozambique will someday achieve this level or better.”

- Carina Matimbe, Mozambique

“Healthcare systems can be fragmented and, as a user, we are concerned with the data interoperability between the mobile based care and facility based care. Sessions during the conference gave us the clear picture on the importance of data exchange between different platforms. OpenMRS is growing and is easy to implement in any facility with minimal resources. The beauty of OpenMRS is that there are no other dependencies with the service level setup. The community is growing and these conferences help us share our experience and bring all the Health informatics/HealthIT people to one common platform. I would say its the best platform for all the clinicians and those group of people who wants to see the real impact through the data driven health care model to create smile on the ground.”

- Sanjaya Poudel, Nepal

“The OpenMRS 2017 conference was a clear example of the direction OpenMRS is headed and how they’re helping solve electronic patient data needs at a national level.” - Stephen S. Musoke, Uganda
Outreach Programs

Google Summer of Code

2017 Program Administrators: Harsha Kumara & Kaweesi Joseph

15 projects - 21 OpenMRS mentors, with students from Sri Lanka, Canberra, and India.

Google Summer of Code is a global program focused on bringing more student developers into open-source software development. OpenMRS has been one of the core organizations for the GSOC outreach program for 10 years, offering projects for students that have the potential to save lives with improved health information systems. We have helped grow some amazing students that have continued beyond the GSOC program to contribute to the community in substantial ways.

Google Code-in

2017 Program Administrators: Ivange Larry & Shreyans Sheth

170 students closed 398 tickets with 14 mentors. Bartłomiej Rasztabiga and Fawwaz Yusran of Indonesia were named Grand Prize winners for OpenMRS.

Google Code-In is an opportunity for pre-University students to participate in a global, online, contest introducing teenagers to the world of open source. OpenMRS has been offering bite-size projects to these awesome teenagers since the inception of the program, and is proud to be the mentor organization of the first African winner of the international Google Code-In contest, Nji Collins from Cameroon. (http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-38922819)

“We're incredibly lucky to have you as part of our community and look forward to your contributions even more in the future. Thanks a ton to all the other mentors as well for all of your time and efforts, this wouldn’t have been possible without you!” - Shreyans Sheth
OpenMRS Distributions

As OpenMRS has matured over the last decade, we have seen more applications built on top of our platform. To support this growth, in October 2016 we introduced the OpenMRS Distributions Program.

Currently Available Distributions are:

- Bahmni
- KenyaEMR
- eSaude
- UgandaEMR

Learn more at om.rs/distributions

Distribution, /distrəˈb(y)oʊSH(ə)n/: noun
A particular configuration of the OpenMRS Platform, OpenMRS modules, and other integrated applications, that can be installed and upgraded as a single unit.
OpenMRS Partner Highlights

OpenMRS partners are organizations committed to the mission of improving healthcare delivery, and help achieve that goal by providing joining alongside our community.

**Andela** was founded in 2014 to build a network of technology leaders on the African continent and bridge the divide between the U.S. and African tech sectors. Leveraging a proven, data-driven approach, Andela builds high-performing engineering teams with Africa’s top developers to help companies overcome the tech talent shortage and build better products, faster. Andela has consistently partnered with OpenMRS to provide incredible developers that help push development of the EMR platform forward.

**eSaúde** is a Mozambique based community focused on the development and implementation of a Mozambican specific configuration of the OpenMRS medical record software and the integration into a national eHealth architecture. eSaúde is now working toward matching the CDC’s goal of having 80 percent of 1.5-million HIV patients in Mozambique on treatment and monitored by the eSaúde EMR.

**AMPATH** defines healthcare as the focus is on the patient, not the disease. AMPATH treats over 180,000 HIV-positive persons at more than 500 urban and rural sites throughout western Kenya. Additionally, they provide school fees, nutrition, and other assistance to over 20,000 children left orphaned due to HIV/AIDS, and work with more than 80 farmer groups and 850 community-run micro-finance groups. We also conduct prevention and early treatment programs that demonstrate a community-based effort that can virtually halt the spread of HIV/AIDS.

“Since 2010, IntelliSOFT Consulting has been a long standing service provider in the OpenMRS community, developing on KenyaEMR, UgandaEMR, eSaude Mozambique EMR, and Bahmni. Intellisoft specializes in developing new modules, concept management, and other customization to meet needs defined by Ministries of Health. They have been involved in the implementation of these systems at National level scale in Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, and Tanzania. At sub-national scale, IntelliSOFT has adapted OpenMRS for use at mission hospitals, and lately to support Non-Communicable Disease and Wellness programs in both the public and private health sectors.”
Looking Forward

One Million Ways to Grow and Innovate

OpenMRS continues to provide critical support for health care delivery through our platform and reference app by facilitating the gathering of information and the translation of information to data and knowledge at the point of care. Our global community of independent and organizationally-sponsored volunteers work together to improve health care delivery, and are moving us closer to the goal of health equity for all. In 2017, we used our operational plan as our guide, and worked to meet each goal. In January, OpenMRS received a massive donation of $1 million from an anonymous cryptocurrency philanthropist and OpenMRS community member known as ‘Pine.’

The wind is at our backs and our direction is clear, but our capabilities have been increased exponentially. The OpenMRS Leadership Team and Board of Directors are constructing a strategy to most effectively and efficiently use this massive donation.

We look forward to a successful year, led by the OpenMRS Community and our external partners.

Supporting Organizations

- AMPATH
- Centers for Disease Control, U.S.
- Fogarty International Center, NIH
- Google
- Harvard Medical School
- International Development Research Centre
- Jembi Health Systems
- Medical Research Council, South Africa
- Millennium Villages Project
- Partners In Health
- Regenstrief Institute
- Rockefeller Foundation
- SalesForce
- SolDevelo
- ThoughtWorks
- University of California San Francisco
- University of Washington
- World Health Organization
- ... and many others!