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## Dr. William Kearns to present on innovative RTLS applications to prevent falls among elderly, and better care for traumatic brain injury survivors at Principals and Essentials in RFID and RTLS Workshop, January 26, Orlando, Florida

**Boston, Mass, - January 20, 2011** – The Principals and Essentials in RFID and RTLS Workshop, co-located with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual World Congress Leadership Summit on Health Care Supply Management, is pleased to welcome the participation of William D. Kearns, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Aging and Mental Health Disparities, University of South Florida (USF), who will discuss two Real-Time Locating System (RTLS) projects aimed at preventing falls from assisted living facility residents and assisting patients recovering from traumatic brain injuries.

With falls among older adults accounting for \$19 billion in health care spending annually in the United States, Dr. Kearns and his team at USF look for signs that assisted living facility residents are susceptible to falling by monitoring their movement in the weeks prior to a fall. They are studying 70 residents across two facilities.

Through the use of an ultra-wideband sensor network that employs wireless transponders, the RTLS system follows elderly residents in the assisted living facilities as they traverse a shared living area while performing daily activities such as going to a dining area, conversing and watching television. The system can pick up changes in residents' normal movement patterns, which may help determine whether a resident is at greater risk for a fall. If a different movement walking pattern is noticed, the staff can be alerted and it can be determined whether any factors, such as a change in medication, may be responsible for the shift.

**WHAT:** The 5th Annual Leadership Summit on Health Care Supply Chain Management Co-Located Principles and Essentials in RFID and RTLS Workshop

**WHEN:** January 24-26, 2011

**WHERE:** Orlando, Florida

**CONFERENCE AGENDA:** [www.worldcongress.com/supplychain](http://www.worldcongress.com/supplychain)

Funded by the Johnnie B. Byrd, Sr. Alzheimer's Center & Research Institute and the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, the study found that a more varied movement pattern correlates to decreased cognitive ability. Dr. Kearns will also discuss a project funded by the US Department of Veterans Affairs that assists individuals recovering from traumatic brain injuries by providing automated reminders and notifications which help them complete activities of daily living. He will speak at 4 p.m. as a solo keynote on Wednesday, January 26 and again at 4:30 p.m. as part of a speaker panel discussing RTLS.

### Principles and Essentials in RFID and RTLS Workshop will include topics on:

- Learn how technologies are impacting not only the health care industry but all assisted living and nursing home industries
- Hear first hand case studies and results
- Analyze all aspects and applications of RFID, RTLS and wireless technologies within the health care facility with industry experts
- Explore how health care professionals are utilizing technology to care for their patients
- Discuss the use of the new Smartphone's on the healthcare industry and their impact on clinicians, patients and the healthcare industry
- Understand how to plan, organize, and launch your own RFID or RTLS pilot at your facility with complete management buy-in

### About World Congress Leadership Summits

The World Congress Leadership Summit Series addresses the most cutting-edge issues for health care executives across a wide range of industry sectors. Designed to expand on topics discussed at invitation-only summits during the World Health Care Congress, this series offers new perspectives on established methodologies, and details solutions to foster innovation and change. For more information, please visit [www.worldcongress.com/leadership](http://www.worldcongress.com/leadership).