



Robert M. Cothren, PhD

**CTO, National Association for Trusted Exchange
Executive Director, California Association of Health
Information Exchanges
Principal, A Cunning Plan**

Dr. Cothren is a leader in developing policies, processes, and technologies that promote widespread, trusted sharing of health information to deliver coordinated care and improve community health. As Chief Technology Officer for the National Association for Trusted Exchange, he promotes interstate sharing of health information and patient-mediated exchange by developing mechanisms to realize trust and privacy through technology. As Executive Director for the California Association of Health Information Exchanges, Dr. Cothren leads California's stakeholders in realizing statewide health information exchange through promotion of regional and enterprise exchanges, and data sharing among them. Dr. Cothren lectures on clinical and public health informatics as part of the UC Davis Extension Program.

Dr. Cothren has participated in nationwide health information sharing since the inception of the Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN, now eHealth Exchange) in 2004, and has over 20 years of experience in health information technology. He is active in the development of national interoperability standards through organizations such as the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) Standards and Interoperability (S&I) Framework, Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE), and HL7. He acted as the enterprise architect for ONC's CONNECT project and supported federal agencies in participating in NwHIN, and is a charter member of the launch of CONNECT as a true open-source community through Open Health Tools. He has participated in the Direct Project, helping lead its efforts to develop scalable trust and pilot testing new implementation standards. He also participates in collaborative state activities such as the EHR | HIE Interoperability Workgroup, helping ensure widespread use of appropriate national standards.

Dr. Cothren was formerly the Director for the California eHealth Quality (ChEQ) program with the Institute for Population Health Improvement at UC Davis Health System, where he led the implementation of California's strategy for statewide health information exchange under ONC's State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program. He has served as CTO and a founding executive of Cognosante, where he led the assessment of state Medicaid programs and their integration with statewide HIE. He was also CTO and Chief Scientist of Northrop Grumman's health practice and Director for its Clinical Information Systems Division, where he managed development and maintenance of the largest enterprise electronic health record system in the world for the DoD, the first worldwide health information exchange between the DoD and VA care delivery systems, and one of the initial approaches to the NwHIN. He previously served as a member of the professional research staff at The Cleveland Clinic and a member of the faculty of The Ohio State University's Biomedical Engineering Center.

Dr. Cothren has over 20 years of professional experience in health, medical, and biological research in academic, public, and private industries. He has led development efforts in medical devices, diagnostic software systems, and clinical and public health IT solutions. He was a Northrop Grumman IT Technical Fellow, has over 100 peer-reviewed articles and speaking invitations, and holds 18 patents with 3 more pending. Dr. Cothren received his PhD in Medical Engineering from the Harvard / MIT Health Sciences and Technology program.