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From the Baltimore Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2019/05/06/health-tech-firm-emocha-exits-accelerator-moves.html>

Health tech firm emocha exits accelerator, moves into new Mount Vernon offices

May 6, 2019, 2:32pm EDT Updated: May 6, 2019, 5:00pm EDT

Health tech startup emocha Mobile Health is moving into a 5,000-square-foot office in Mount Vernon, after spending two years in a Johns Hopkins accelerator space in East Baltimore.

The company currently occupies three offices at the FastForward 1812 space on the Hopkins medical campus. CEO Sebastian Seiguer joked the company would gladly take another two.

Emocha will relocate its headquarters to the 900 block of N. Charles St.

Seiguer said the new space will be more "comfortable" for the growing company, as it continues to scale and pursue new markets and partnerships throughout 2019. Emocha plans to add at least seven new employees to its staff of 17 in the coming months.

Seiguer's firm was founded in 2014, based on technology developed in part by Robert Bollinger, an infectious diseases professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Emocha's technology helps track "medication adherence," or ensuring that patients are taking their medications regularly and correctly, via a mobile app. Its platform allows patients to record videos of themselves taking their medicines and share them with doctors. The goal is to ensure that patients with diseases and conditions that require specific drug regimens are actually keeping up with their treatment plans.

Emocha's software platform is currently being used by more than a dozen ongoing research studies at Johns Hopkins. In January, emocha and Johns Hopkins received a \$2.1 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support a study to determine whether financial incentives improve the likelihood that patients with opioid use disorder will stick with their treatment plans. The partners also recently secured another \$4.4 million in funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to support the study.

The company is backed by about \$2 million in seed capital, and more than \$4 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health, in addition to other federal support.

Its tech platform has also been used in studies and by public health organizations in Washington, Massachusetts and North Carolina. Recently, emocha announced it is partnering with public health officials in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, to help patients recovering from tuberculosis. Emocha also worked with University of Maryland Health Partners on a program to make sure Type 2 diabetes patients are taking their medicines correctly. And in an ongoing clinical trial, emocha is partnering with researchers at the University of Washington and Boston Medical Center to assess its platform's usefulness for patients receiving buprenorphine treatment to treat opioid addiction, funded by a \$1.7 million award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.



COURTESY OF EMOCHA

Sebastian Seiguer is the CEO of Baltimore health technology firm emocha Mobile Health.

The company was one of the first tenants at FastForward 1812, which opened in April 2017.

"Emocha and FastForward have grown up together, and it's with a great deal of pride and a tinge of sadness that we watch emocha take the next step," Brian Stansky, senior director of FastForward, said in a statement. "It's been a privilege to watch them grow both as a team and as a business."

Seiguer said he will miss the startup community at FastForward, but noted that emocha will continue to rent a few tenant desks at the accelerator space, in order to maintain proximity to some of the researchers the company is working with at Hopkins.

"We are a little bit sad to leave FastForward and the colleagues and connections we have there, but we're also really excited to continue to grow a great team in Baltimore," Seiguer said.

Morgan Eichensehr

Reporter

Baltimore Business Journal

