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INDRAPRASTHA INSTITUTE of  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
DELHI

*Interactive panel session at the UNGA77 Science Summit*



Science Summit at UNGA77  
13-30 September 2022

## Artificial Intelligence Research in Health: Tackling Global Challenges as One

Conference Rooms 818 and 819,  
CUNY Central Offices,  
[205 East 42nd Street](#)

and Online (Zoom)

Thursday 22nd September, 12:30–2:30 pm EST

*Light lunch provided to participants*

Register [here](#) (physical attendance) or  
[here](#) (online participation)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can help unlock new preventive treatments, advance personalized medicine, and implement precise public health interventions. However, there is a **growing knowledge power imbalance between a few countries leading in AI and the rest of the world**. In particular, researchers and innovators in low-middle income countries (LMICs) lack the required training, high-quality datasets, and infrastructure to develop and apply algorithms based on their own contexts. Furthermore, initiatives to build health datasets are often siloed, thereby limiting their value for the AI research and development (R&D) landscape due to a lack of scale and diversity. These challenges make it difficult to conduct inclusive and impactful AI research in health that provides global benefits.

In order to harness the power of AI in health, I-DAIR and its partners believe in a transdisciplinary, collaborative approach to AI research in health, with a focus on bringing together the voices of different LMICs stakeholders from the outset. Having a neutral, trusted space for knowledge exchange and where existing technologies are available as digital public goods can enable the global R&D agenda to manifest sustainably and bring us closer to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.

The International Digital Health & AI Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) and its global partners from the United Nations University Institute in Macau (UNU Macau), Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi), Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), the Africa-Canada AI and & Data Innovation Consortium (ACADIC) led by York University and the University of the Witwatersrand, and the City University of New York (CUNY) are thus conducting **a session to explore how collaborative research in AI for health can be established and sustained, as well as how technology can help to overcome pressing global health challenges** advancing healthy lives and well-being for all.

Divided into two discussions, this session will introduce practical and applicable solutions answering to the recommendations made by the **UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation**, focusing on health challenges as a use case to help identify potential action points and catalyze international collaboration to address them.

The first panel "*Promoting collaborative research in AI for health*" will look at **promoting collaborative research for responsible AI for health** by means of levelling the playing field and promoting inclusivity and transdisciplinarity in research to foster responsible development and deployment of AI in health with contextualized and unbiased technology that can ensure human agency over AI in the long run.

The second panel "*State of the art in AI for health*" will explore how to leverage technology to overcome pressing global health challenges (namely anti-microbial resistance, outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and environmental changes) and provide effective methods of early detection. Going beyond the traditional vertical approach, we will explore **how AI can help cut across scientific silos to promote a holistic approach to solving these challenges**.

This event will contribute to **advancing national and international R&D agendas and digital health strategies**, by bringing examples and evidence from different contexts on the use of technology for achieving SDG 3. It will enrich and deepen the dialogue between government representatives, scientists and civil society on some of the most pressing challenges and opportunities in using AI to improve the future of healthcare and drive universal health coverage.

**The draft program of the event is as follows:**

*A light lunch will be offered to in-person participants inside the conference rooms.*

12:30pm

### Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Christoph Benn** – Chair, I-DAIR Board (Switzerland)

12:40pm

### Keynote Speech

- **USG Amandeep Singh Gill** – Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (United Nations)

12:55pm

### Panel 1 - Promoting collaborative research in AI for health

- **Prof. Anurag Agrawal** – Dean, Biosciences and Health Research, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University (India)
- **Dr. Sathy Rajasekharan** – Co-Executive Director, Jacaranda Health (Kenya)
- **Dr. Dominique Charron** – Vice-President, Programs and Partnerships, IDRC (Canada)
- **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan** – Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (Switzerland)
- *CERN representative TBC* – CERN (Switzerland)
- [moderator] **Dr. Christoph Benn** – Chair, I-DAIR Board (Switzerland)

1:35pm

### Panel 2 - State of the art in AI for health

- **Mr. Jake Okechukwu Effoduh** – Chief Counsel, ACADIC (Canada/Nigeria)
- **Prof. Bruce Lee** – Executive Director, Center for Advanced Technology and Communication in Health (CATCH), CUNY School of Public Health (USA)
- **Prof. Bruce Mellado** – University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
- **Prof. Carisi Polanczyk** – Professor of Medicine, UFRGS (Brazil)
- **Dr. Serge Stinckwich** – Head of Research, UNU-Macau (United Nations)
- [moderator] **Dr. Peiling Yap** – Chief Scientist, I-DAIR (Switzerland/Malaysia)

2:15pm

### Closing remarks

- **Dr. Stefan Germann** – CEO, Fondation Botnar (Switzerland)

**To register**, kindly use the following links: [physical attendance](#) or [online participation](#) and feel free to email I-DAIR's Scientific Community Manager, Brian Li Han Wong at [brian.wong@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:brian.wong@graduateinstitute.ch) should you have any questions.