ITD21

RT-1.4: Transdisciplinarity in Digital Health and AI: From misconceptions to co-conception and production

Time: Tuesday, 14/Sept/2021: 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Transdisciplinarity in Digital Health and AI: From misconceptions to co-conception and production

Peiling Yap, Flavia Schlegel, Amandeep Gill

International Digital Health and AI Collaborative Research (I-DAIR), Switzerland; peiling.yap[at]graduateinstitute.ch

The **International Digital Health & AI Research Collaborative (I-DAIR)** is a Geneva-based global platform to enable inclusive, impactful, and responsible research into digital health and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for health. I-DAIR's mission is the transformation of personal and public health through collaborative research and development of digital technologies. Together with our partners, we strive to develop and maintain a new generation of global public goods for the inclusive, innovative and responsible deployment of data and AI in health. At I-DAIR, we see digital technology as an enabler and understand that by simply throwing technology at a problem, we will not be able to solve health challenges globally. It is therefore imperative that we embrace multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches in our work going forward.

For ITD21, we are proposing a panel session to explore the use of transdisciplinary approaches in digital health and AI research. The panel will consist of researchers from various disciplines, such as the health sciences, social sciences and computer sciences, and also stakeholders from non-academic sectors, such as policy makers and civil society groups. We will start with understanding the misconceptions the different research and practice communities have for each other and discuss ways to overcome them, in particular how transdisciplinary approaches can help bridge these communities together. Through presentation of research projects undertaken by the panelists and I-DAIR, we will highlight existing multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary practices taking place on-the-ground and examine potential opportunities where transdisciplinary approaches can allow for the research, development and deployment of digital technologies for health to be more inclusive, equitable and responsible. In particular, we will look at the type of data infrastructure and cooperation frameworks that need to be in place for an effective and productive collaboration between the various research and practice communities. Finally, we will also discuss the current limitations of transdisciplinary approaches in progressing this field and the type of capacity development efforts needed to cultivate the next generation of transdisciplinary researchers for digital health and AI for health.

The panel session will consist of short presentations by the panelists and a moderated question-and-answer session among the panel and participants. We expect an interactive discussion and believe that through the panel session, attendees will gain a better appreciation of the role that transdisciplinary research can play in the development and deployment of digital technologies in health and how one can put this approach to practice.