

Summary report on the Workshop "Enabling AI for health innovation and access"

Geneva, Friday 11 July 09:00-12:15 CEST

Introduction

As health systems grapple with growing demands, constrained resources, and persistent inequities in access, AI holds potential for reducing system inefficiency, enhancing health workforce, optimizing resource allocation, and improving access to care. However, the integration of AI in health demands effective frameworks for interoperability, ethical governance, regulatory framework and scalable deployment.

This session took place at the AI for Good Summit 2025 and it was hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the founding UN agencies of [the Global Initiative on AI for Health](#) (GI-AI4H). It aimed to promote the concept of responsible AI for health, catalyse cross-sector collaboration, and encourage broader participation from the global health and AI communities.

Presentations can be found at [AI for Health Workshop](#).

Main discussions

Opening & Welcome

Speakers

- **Simão CAMPOS** (*Counsellor, AI for Health standards, ITU*)
- **Nancy PIGNATARO** (*Associate External Relations Officer, External Relations Division, WIPO*)
- **Sameer PUJARI** (*Lead, AI for Health, WHO*)



Session 1: Strategies and Frameworks

Moderator: Sameer PUJARI

This panel delved into the policy and governance challenges and opportunities associated with the adoption of AI in healthcare, with a focus on regulatory harmonization, ethical implementation, and equitable access. It also explored how GI-AI4H can facilitate global collaboration.

Panellists & main points

- **Gopal RAMCHURN** (*CEO, Responsible AI UK*) shared the challenges in implementing Responsible AI in healthcare and emphasized the need to build communities and champion networks to guide AI deployment.
- **André ANJOS** (*Group Leader in Medical AI and Scientific Researcher, Idiap Research Institute, Switzerland*) emphasized that AI for healthcare must be customized to local needs and infrastructure. Meanwhile, it should evolve to ensure transparency, accountability, and ethical oversight.
- **Mary-Anne HARTLEY** (*Director, Laboratory for Intelligent Global Health & Humanitarian Response Technologies, EPFL, Switzerland*) highlighted the importance of localization and sovereignty of large language models (LLMs) by sharing her experience in developing contextualized, trustworthy, and transparent LLMs.
- **Claudia SEITZ** (*Professor of Public Law, European Law, Public International Law, and Life Sciences Law, UFL, Liechtenstein*) highlighted the EU's efforts to tackle medical data management and proposed a principle-based approach enabling agile adaptation to technological changes.
- **Zoltán TURBÉK** (*Permanent Mission of Hungary to the UN*) stressed that human-centred validation of AI models is essential for trust and adoption.



Key Takeaways

- Standards are needed for the validation of models and must support transparency, reproducibility, and contextual validation.
- AI should be viewed as an enabler, not a replacement, in healthcare.
- Global collaboration is vital to share best practices and avoid duplication.
- Investments are needed in research, infrastructure, regulation, and human capacity.

Follow-up actions

- Develop agile, standards-based regulatory templates to help countries adapt AI frameworks to local healthcare needs while ensuring global alignment.
- Expand the global AI Champions network to foster cross-border collaboration and coordinate research, policy, and implementation efforts in AI for health.
- Support platforms enabling benchmarking and localized AI validation not requiring AI expertise, ensuring technologies are contextually relevant, trustworthy, and aligned with regional priorities.
- Create model laws and standardized frameworks to guide national AI health strategies, promoting transparency, ethics, and regulatory coherence across jurisdictions.
- Advocate for open science and foster inclusive, transparent, and accountable AI policy and research that benefits society as a whole.

Session 2: Use cases of AI for health

Moderator: Simão CAMPOS

This session showcased real-world applications of AI to address global health challenges, highlighted the transformative impact of AI in the healthcare space and explored the necessary factors for key stakeholders to bring AI to the people at frontline.

Panellists & main points

- **Thierry CORDIER-LASSALLE** (*Health Operations and Logistics Capacity Development, Health Emergencies Programme, WHO*) and **Rich PARKER** (*Learning Expert & Emergencies Specialist, Training in Aid*) presented how AI



- facilitates the development and customization of standards-guided training packages for emergency agencies. These packages scale up the learning and competencies of emergency workers in different roles at the country level.
- **Yinzi JIN** (*Deputy Director, Department of Global Health, School of Public Health, Peking University, China*) presented China's "5-minute social rescue circle" initiative for cardiac arrest emergencies to improve survival rates, demonstrated how AI, data integration, and community-based approaches could increase bystander CPR rates and survival rates.
- **Romita GHOSH** (*Founder and CEO, RevolutionAlze*) shared a public health tool from India that uses AI to track and address childhood malnutrition. The tool analyses existing WHO standards and integrates with government healthcare applications.
- **Nina LINDER** (*Co-Chair of Point-of-Care Diagnostics, Uppsala University, Sweden, and University of Helsinki, Finland*) presented AI-based point-of-care diagnostics, which have also been applied in East Africa for cancer screening and infectious disease diagnostics using mobile microscopy and cloud-based AI systems.
- **Peter SCHIØLER** (*Information Manager, Health Emergencies Department, WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office*) shared the AI-powered All Hazard Information Management toolkit, which speeds up outbreak decision-making and reduces document preparation time.

Core Takeaways

- AI tools must be localized, culturally appropriate, and usable offline to ensure equity.
- Partnerships with governments, NGOs, and academia are critical for scale and sustainability.
- AI solutions should be designed for low-resource settings and integrated into existing systems.

Follow-up Actions

- Develop standards for AI validation and contextual adaptation.
- Support open, modular platforms for AI deployment in public health.
- Advocate for equitable access and sustainability of AI tools.
- Evolve a global experts network and develop partnerships for responsible use of AI.
- Encourage data governance frameworks that support local ownership and privacy.

Session 3: IP management to enable AI implementation for healthcare innovation and access

Moderator: Siddhartha PRAKASH (*Head, Global Health, Global Challenges Division, WIPO*)

This panel, hosted by WIPO's External Relations and Global Challenges Divisions, explored how private innovators and governments can effectively leverage intellectual property, to ensure AI health solutions reach markets and expand healthcare accessibility in low- and middle-income (LMICs) countries

Panellists& main points

- **Tobias SCHONWETTER** (*Associate Professor, Department of Commercial Law, University of Cape Town*) urged Africa to establish autonomous AI legal frameworks for healthcare, prioritizing people-centred, ethical regulation amid fragmented **governance**. He pointed out that IP can incentivize innovation but must be balanced with access and equity, especially in LMICs
- **Sneha JAIN** (*Saikrishna and Associates, India*) highlighted copyright management as **central** to deploying AI in healthcare, emphasizing that fair use, transformative use, and derivative works are key legal concepts in AI copyright
- **Komal KALHA** (*Deputy Director, IP and Trade, IFPMA*) noted that the industry uses AI in drug discovery and clinical trials but often keeps tools proprietary due to data privacy, and that IP frameworks must align with AI's technical realities for cross-boundary functionality.



Key Takeaways

- IP frameworks must evolve to address AI-specific challenges like authorship and data rights.
- Exceptions and limitations are essential to enable AI development.
- Open innovation and indigenous data governance must be considered in global standards.
- Global cooperation is needed to align IP, data, and regulatory frameworks.

Follow-up Actions

- Develop model IP clauses and licensing templates for AI in health.
- Promote awareness of copyright implications at each stage of the AI pipeline.
- Encourage countries to include IP in their AI strategies and policies.

Introduction of AI in traditional medicine technical brief

Moderator:

- **Sameer PUJARI**

Speaker:

- **Shyama KURUVILLA** (*Director a.i., Global Centre for Traditional Medicine, WHO*)

Objective & Main points

The session concluded a presentation on the WHO's Global Traditional Medicine Center, including its efforts to bring evidence-based traditional medicine to billions worldwide, and a preview of the upcoming technical brief on AI and traditional medicine.

Shyama discussed the challenges and opportunities of integrating AI with traditional medicine as described in the technical brief on AI in traditional medicine, as well as the development of a global library on traditional medicine featuring an AI interface. She emphasized the importance of respecting traditional knowledge and biodiversity while promoting innovation and access to healthcare.



Closing

Speakers:

- **Bilel JAMOSSI** (*TSB Deputy Director, Chief, Study Groups & Policy Department, ITU*)
- **Dalila HAMOU** (*Director, External Relations Division, WIPO*)
- **Alain LABRIQUE** (*Director, Department of Digital Health and Innovation, WHO*)

In their remarks, the three high-level representatives of ITU, WHO and WIPO emphasized the importance of ethical AI use in healthcare, global collaboration, and equitable AI access, outlining a strategic vision for responsible AI for health. They called for collective action to develop standards, advocate sustainable adoption, foster partnerships, share best practices, invest in open science and research, and advocate inclusive, transparent, and accountable AI policy and regulation that embraces innovation and protect the vulnerable. The vision centres on an ethical, inclusive, and globally coordinated AI healthcare future, ensuring no country is left behind, via AI for Health Global activities that balance innovation with accessibility, transparency, and local ownership, and the Global Initiative on AI for Health in particular.

