



## Provisional programme

### **The promise of digital health to address non-communicable diseases in low and middle income countries**

Monday 25 – Wednesday 27 November 2019 | WP1683

“With the largest NCD burden occurring in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and leading to and perpetuating poverty, the prevention and control of NCDs is an urgent development issue. The costs to individuals and society of healthcare and loss of income-earners hampers poverty reduction and sustainable development. NCDs constrain the bottom billion in chronic poverty.”<sup>1</sup>

This Wilton Park dialogue will bring together diverse stakeholders from government, healthcare providers, private sector and other organisations to devise plans and models to unlock the enormous potential of digital health care to facilitate the prevention, treatment and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The dialogue will take place one year after the publication of the Broadband Commission Working Group on Digital Health report, which highlighted the promise of digital health to address NCDs to accelerate Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in LMICs. It will also follow the United Nations High Level Meeting on UHC in September 2019, with its particular focus on primary healthcare.

#### **Context**

NCDs are not a new health challenge. They are becoming an increasing burden for governments of low-and middle-income countries already struggling to improve health outcomes for their populations. More than three quarters (32 million) of all NCD deaths occur in developing countries, and for all regions, except Africa, NCDs are now the leading cause of death. It is projected that by 2030, this will also be the case in Africa.<sup>2</sup>

The impact of NCDs in LMICs, and particularly through premature deaths (those of working age), is therefore enormous, both causing and perpetuating poverty, while hindering economic development. In fact, NCDs are now considered to be “one of the

<sup>1</sup> “NCDs,” NCD Alliance, accessed 18 March, 2019, <https://ncdalliance.org/why-ncds/NCDs>.

<sup>2</sup> “Bad news on NCDs confirmed by Global Burden of Disease study,” NCD Alliance, accessed 18 March, 2019, <https://ncdalliance.org/news-events/news/bad-news-on-ncds-confirmed-by-global-burden-of-disease-study>.

#### **In association with:**



The Novartis  
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The  
George  
Institute  
for Global Health

20  
years  
1999 – 2019



major challenges for sustainable development in the twenty-first century”<sup>3</sup> and are estimated to cause a cumulative global loss of output of \$47 trillion between 2011 and 2030.

Despite this global health challenge, funding for tackling NCDs remains low compared to other diseases, attracting just 2% of the funding despite NCDs representing 60% of the disease burden worldwide. Yet even low-cost preventative measures could have a significant impact on future health outcomes. A new approach is therefore needed to combat NCDs: an approach which will transform the way health care is provided and vastly expand access to quality services, as well as promoting effective self-health care among populations.

Without properly addressing NCDs, the goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and the targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, cannot be achieved. This was noted clearly at the UN General Assembly High Level meeting on NCDs in September 2018.

Digital technology is already revolutionising healthcare delivery and offers a way forward. Worldwide, digital tools are leading to better and faster healthcare: healthcare that is more empowering and accessible for patients, more efficient for providers and more cost-effective for health systems. Digital health is potentially the most powerful enabler that LMICs can use to address the growing burden of NCDs and achieve UHC – whether supporting prevention or treatment, management and control.

Despite their potential, the myriad of digital health solutions are often designed and rolled out with a narrow, tactical scope (for example a specific disease, geographic location, or patient (sub)population), and consequently struggle to progress beyond the pilot phase, to become financially viable and integrate into national health policies and systems. There are also a range of challenges to consider, including data privacy, access to digital health for the most vulnerable, or for those in humanitarian settings, or how digital might apply to different demographics, for example it might appeal less to older generations.

This conference will explore the potential of national digital health strategies and systems that can offer cost effective solutions, harnessing the full power of information and communication technologies (ICT) for the prevention, treatment and management of non-communicable diseases to improve health outcomes. Discussion will include focus on how digital solutions can contribute at primary healthcare levels and through better integrated systems.

This meeting builds on earlier Wilton Park discussions including on ‘Reimagining global health: self-care interventions and implications for healthcare’, ‘Artificial intelligence and global health’ and a series on ‘Digital health in Africa: leadership and coordination’.

## **Goal and objectives**

This conference seeks to support national and global efforts to develop digital health solutions for NCDs, particularly in LMICs, sharing learnings and advocating for policy change.

It aims at the following specific objectives:

1. Consider how NCD health care and health outcomes can be improved through digital health approaches that facilitate the development of cost-effective, large-scale, quality universal health coverage in LMICs including through primary healthcare.
2. Share examples of effective digital healthcare strategies in LMICs that can meet the current NCD challenges, including lessons learned from a range of countries where digital health has helped to tackle the growing NCD burden, including for example Vietnam, Uganda, Costa Rica, India and Malaysia, providing practical

<sup>3</sup> “NCD and Women,” World Health Organization, accessed 18 March, 2019, <https://www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/ncd-themes/NCD-and-women/en/>.

examples regarding implementation of digital health programmes and how these might apply in different contexts, including the opportunity for 'frugal innovations' programmes.

3. Build understanding of the key findings of the Broadband Commission, including of the six building blocks to transform access to appropriate and effective NCD care; and consider the Commission recommendations and whether (and how) these should be prioritised, leveraging work already taking place to support development of national digital health systems in LMICs.
4. Understand the opportunities that digital health offers for NCD prevention and treatment with the context of primary healthcare and integrated systems.
5. Promote existing public private partnerships and inspire new partnerships to tackle the global burden of NCDs.

### **Intended outcomes**

1. Experiences and lessons shared about how NCD health care can be improved through digital solutions in LMICs; identified opportunities to enable new and expanded programmes;
2. Connecting diverse partners involved in digital health and NCDs, and create new networks to enable collaborative efforts, considering how to maximise and maintain such networks, for example exploring a working group to discuss and build a roadmap around the key building blocks and recommendations;
3. Identify new funding investment opportunities with donors, multilateral agencies and other funders to support LMICs, including sharing evidence of impact to support business cases; exploring the potential for impact investing;
4. Supported coordination between existing national, regional and donor approaches where appropriate, linked to the efforts to build digital health leadership capacity;
5. Meeting outcomes will be captured in a report summarising the discussions, conclusions, policy recommendations, and actions, which will be widely circulated to interested parties and posted on Wilton Park and other websites.

**In partnership with The Novartis Foundation and The George Institute, University of Oxford, and in association with NCD Alliance**

## **Monday 25 November**

**1300**

Participants arrive and lunch is available

**1500-1530**

### **Welcome and introduction**

**Sharmila Nebhrajani**

Chief Executive Officer, Wilton Park

**Ann Aerts**

Head, Novartis Foundation, Basel

**Anushka Patel**

Vice Principal Director & Chief Scientist, The George Institute for Global Health, Sydney

1530-1645

## 1. The promises of digital health to tackle NCDs

This opening session will set the scene, highlighting the burden of NCDs and the potential of digital health to transform their prevention, management and treatment. It will also explore the findings of the Broadband Commission report, examining examples highlighted in the report. What opportunities do digital health approaches offer for the management of NCDs?

### **Anushka Patel**

Vice Principal Director & Chief Scientist, The George Institute for Global Health, Sydney

### **Malcolm Johnson**

Deputy Secretary General, International Telecommunications Union, Geneva

### **Virginia Arnold**

Project Officer, WHO Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases Management Team, Geneva

1645-1730

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1730-1900

## 2. Digital health and NCDs: what is working?

Identifying best practice and lessons learnt from recent experiences in deploying digital health approaches to tackle NCDs. What is working and what has enabled that success? What kinds of partnerships have developed? How to successfully create initiatives that have the potential to scale nationally and/or have domestic budget support? What impact are they having? How to measure success and impact in a digital health strategy in relation to NCDs? What are the bottlenecks? What's not working?

### **Didik Budijanto**

Director, Centre for Data and Information, Ministry of Health, Jakarta

### **\*Eduardo Cubillo**

Digital Health Infrastructure and Technology Management, San Jose

### **Arunah Chandran**

Senior Principal Assistant Director, Division of Disease Control, Ministry of Health, Putrajaya

1900

Reception

1930

Dinner

## Tuesday 26 November

0800-0900

Breakfast

0830-0845

Facilitator briefing in library

0900-1030

## 3. 'The white heat of technology': what can digital health offer?

What digital health tools are becoming available both for health professionals to use and patients? What digital health tools can contribute and at what stage, along the prevention, diagnostic treatment, management pathway? What technological developments are anticipated? Where are there opportunities for significant tech innovation and initiatives? How to accelerate the use of adaptable, scalable technologies to address the growing burden of NCDs?

### **Sameer Pujari**

Technical Officer and Manager mHealth for NCDs, Be He@lthy Be Mobile Initiative, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva

**Hila Azadzoy**

Managing Director, Global Health Initiatives, Ada Health, Berlin

**Adel Baluch**

Clinical Lead, Ada Health, Berlin

**Daniel Burka**

Head of Design, Simple App (India), Resolve to Save Lives, New York

**Tracey McNeill**

Chief Clinical Governance Officer, Babylon Health, London

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1245

**4. Developing national strategies for digital health for NCDs**

What policies need to be adopted and implemented to develop a national digital health programme for NCDs? What are the building blocks of digital health strategies? How to ensure close coordination of the Ministries of Health and Ministries of ICT? What are the challenges and considerations to developing a national strategy and scaling up digital health care from small projects? How to create integrated strategies across the health service, including at primary level? How to ensure quality and equity of access?

**David Okello**

Director NCDs & Healthy Ageing, African Centre for Global Health & Social Transformation, Kampala

**Monika Arora**

Director, Health Promotion Division & Additional Professor, Public Health Foundation of India, Haryana

**Nguyen Thi Thu Nam**

Country Technical Lead, Better Health Programme, Hanoi

1245-1400

Lunch

1400-1500

Free time for informal conversations and seeding new partnerships

1500-1600

**5. Primary interventions: how can technology support a move to primary and community-based care for NCDs?**

How to realise the promise of digital health to transform access to appropriate and effective NCD care from prevention to treatment at primary care level? What is working to build interventions to tackle NCDs at the primary care level? How to build interventions at scale? What is the necessary favourable environment for sustainable digital health responses to NCDs? How to manage NCDs in a co-ordinated way across all levels of care and stages of a patient journey from a primary care approach?

**Julia Beart**

CEO, Primary Care International, Oxford

**Insights from Mongolia**

**ND Dashdorj**

Chairman, Onom Foundation, Ulaanbaatar

1600-1815

**6. Building the future: how can digital health best transform the response to NCDs?**

This session will be organised as working groups with participants able to explore approaches to transforming ideas of digital health into practice. Some overarching questions across the discussions will include:

- i. How can digital technology drive innovation in healthcare to meet unmet health needs around NCDs, a lack of health infrastructure and trained health workers? How can countries 'leapfrog' and adopt newer solutions?
- ii. How to make choices to ensure that patients will be safe, and that high-quality and cost-effective digital solutions are adopted?
- iii. How to manage the selection of digital devices to ensure that those approved for use are safe, cost-effective and high quality? What regulatory frameworks need to be developed and how should these be implemented?

**Format: World Café; with participants choosing to go to 3 different topics during the session. Introduction in plenary with facilitators making a 3 minute intervention to the whole group followed by discussion in smaller groups, with participants rotating after 30 minutes**

Discussion themes:

**1. Digital platforms: enabling common platforms and interoperability frameworks**

How to enable the sharing and use of information to manage NCDs more effectively and efficiently? How can policy makers work with other stakeholders to create cost-efficient digital health platforms that can be shared? How to regulate data management to protect the privacy and security of patients' health data?

**Craig Friderichs**, Director, A-Z Medicine, Cape Town

**2. Primary and community based care: building digital approaches to NCDs**

How to support primary based care for NCDs? How to manage NCDs in a co-ordinated way across all levels of care and stages of a patient journey?

**David Peiris**, Global Primary Health Care Programme, The George Institute for Global Health, Sydney

**ND Dashdorj**, Chairman, Onom Foundation, Ulaanbaatar

**Shama Karkal**, Swasti, Bangalore

**3. Prevention: what role for digital technology to create proactive, preventative care for NCDs?**

To include discussion on using digital/health information approaches to communicate messages.

**JS Thakur**, Professor, Department of Community Medicine & School of Public Health, Chandigarh

**Mukesh Kapila**, Professor of Global Health & Humanitarian Affairs, University of Manchester, Executive Director, Digital Health Global Foundation, Geneva

**4. Displaced people: Tackling NCDs through digital solutions**

How to build policies that enable access and affordability?

**Lilian Kiapi**, Senior Technical Advisor, Primary HealthCare – Health Unit, International Rescue Committee, London

**Yousef Shahin**, Chief Disease Prevention & Control, UNRWA, Health Department, Amman

**5. Self-care approaches: linking with the health systems**

How to integrate individual self-care approaches with health systems? What role for governments for example in regulation, **or in** education?

**Arthur Phillips**, Senior Medical Officer, NCDs, Ministry of Health and Wellness, St Michael

**Marcel Braun**, SMS for Life Program Head, Novartis Social Business, Novartis Foundation, Basel

**6. Scaling up: How to get beyond pilots?**

How can countries 'leapfrog' and adopt newer solutions? How to ensure cost-effectiveness and sustainability of approaches? How to expedite necessary approvals?

**Helen McGuire**, Programme Leader, NCDs, PATH, Seattle

**Manh Cuong Nguyen**, Director General, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Health, Vietnam

**7. Building healthcare access through aggregation of social enterprise work**

How to enable the aggregation of Apps, Platforms and clinically validated solutions to enhance healthcare workers capacity? How to guide social entrepreneurs to collaborate and facilitate the aggregation of their work for NCD's? How can governments contribute to accelerate this process?

**Jordi Serrano Pons**, CEO, Universal Doctor, Geneva

To include tea/coffee after the plenary introductions

1815-1900

**7. Return to plenary in conference room for feedback and reflections**

Before drinks reception: On 'sticky board' write one issue you would like to discuss in more detail with others for Session 10. e.g. What is needed to address bottlenecks and overcome barriers for uptake? Are changes needed in regulatory frameworks? What data is needed to support business cases? What infrastructure and frameworks are required to deal with data collected from digital technologies?

1900

Drinks reception

1930

Dinner

**Wednesday 27 November**

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0900-0920

**8. Digital health for NCDs - reflections**

Reflections from the discussion so far to help shape the conversation in subsequent sessions.

0920-1030

**9. Financing models and new partnerships: diversification and sustainability**

How to fund cost-effective national digital health strategies and programmes for NCDs in LMICs? What innovative and diverse financing options could be used to fund NCD solutions that plug into the common digital health platform? How to unlock coordinated investment between ministries of health and ICT to support strengthening digital health systems to address NCDs? How to ensure funding is available for overall strategies rather than just start-ups or small-scale projects? Where are the new funding investment opportunities with donors, multilateral agencies and other funders to support LMICs? What are the opportunities for impact investing?

**Nicole Fraser**

Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, World Bank, Washington DC

**Rachel Nugent**

Vice President, Global Noncommunicable Diseases, RTI International, Durham

**Andrea Feigl**

Founder and Executive Director, Health Finance Institute, Arlington VA

**James Pfitzer**

Director, Access Accelerated, Geneva

1030-1045

Tea/coffee

1045-1145

**10. Building national and global responses**

Drawing on earlier discussions the aim of this session is to focus on specific steps that can be taken to build strategies, plans and models at a national setting and global level and the change management that will need to happen. Participants will identify the issues to discuss based on earlier conversations and interests. Questions to address might include: what is needed to enable success and overcome barriers? How to manage the selection of digital approaches and devices to ensure that those are approved for use are safe, cost-effective, high quality? What is needed in terms of regulatory frameworks? How to demonstrate evidence of impact to support business cases? Where might domestic actors need external input and what form might this take? What actions might be needed at global level?

*Format – working groups*

1145-1300

**11. Conclusions, commitments and next steps**

To include feedback from the discussion groups in session 10, this final action-orientated closing discussion will focus on next steps on digital health for NCDs, including ways to further the development of digital health networks in LMICs.

**Chair: Wilton Park**

Contributions from participants

To include completion of online evaluation survey

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

**This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.**

**This is an invitation only conference.**

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