

# MEDITEH BEYOND

*Digital Health Connection Beyond Mediterranean Boundaries*

## Scientific Program

**Catania, Sicily**

**16-17 May 2024**

Monastero dei Benedettini di San Nicolò l'Arena

Organizing Secretary

SCITERION Italy

Promoted by

Diplomatia

HPC  
HEALTH POLICY  
COMMISSION

## Presidents and Scientific Committee

### President of the Summit

**Giovanni Castellaneta**, *President of Diplomatia*

### President of the Scientific Committee

**Francesco Gabbrielli**, *Lead of R&D on clinical activity in telemedicine, National Agency for Regional Healthcare - AGENAS, Roma*

### The Scientific Committee of MEDITEH Summit 2024

**Abdullah Alotaibi**, *Medical Director and Head of Telehealth Department, Manzil Healthcare Services, Saudi Arabia*

**Ali Asy**, *Pharmacology and Biosafety Advisor at Animal Health Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center, Egypt*

**Rossana Berardi**, *Director of the Medical Oncology, Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona*

**Alice Yammine Boueiz**, *Chief Executive Officer at Arab Hospitals Federation, Lebanon*

**Alberico Luigi Catapano**, *Director Department of Pharmacological and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Milano*

**Giacomo Cuttone**, *Coordinator of the Scientific Committee for Life Science (INFN4LS), National Institute Nuclear Physics, Catania*

**Samer Ellaham**, *Gulf Medical University, United Arab Emirates; Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Case Western Reserve University*

**Francesco Franceschi**, *Chief of Emergency Medicine, University General Hospital A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rome*

**Antonio Gaddi**, *President Italian Society of Telemedicine - SIT, Rome*

**Frederic Lievens**, *Vice Executive Director International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth (ISfTeH)*

**Marco Manca**, *Co-founder and President SCImPULSE Foundation, Netherlands*

**Vanessa Mendes**, *International Projects Team Leader at SPMS - Shared Services of the Ministry of Health, Portugal*

**Michael Miller**, *WHO Digital Health Technical Advisory Group (DHTAG) Roster of Experts*

**Nahed Monsef**, *Director of Strategy & Governance, Dubai Health Authority*

**Alessandra Poggiani**, *General Director CINECA, Italy*

**Pierfrancesco Veroux**, *Professor Vascular Surgery, Director of Department of General Surgery, University of Catania*

**Hoda Wahba**, *Chief Medical Officer at Ain Shams University Virtual Hospital, Il Cairo*

## The Audience

MEDITEH Beyond welcomes **healthcare professionals** and **managers, eHealth and telemedicine experts, representatives** of the Mediterranean, Africa and Middle East (**Embassies, Ministries, National Institutes for new technologies and research**), **companies working in healthcare science and technology sectors** eager to **cooperate**, bringing their insights, expertise and proposals for **valuable innovation in digital healthcare**.

Currently, **MEDITEH Network member countries** are **Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Jordan, Greece, Malta, Morocco, Montenegro, Slovenia** and **Turkey**.

A relevant part of the Summit will be the **working groups** on vertical topics organized in workshops. These discussions will be aimed at **analyzing current needs and future scenarios**, sharing and identifying best cases and successful experiences as statements that will be used to draft a **position paper**.

The Summit will be held in **English, French** and **Italian**.

The Summit will be **partially live-streamed**.

## The Rational

The **Mediterranean**, cradle of civilizations, crossroads of cultures and realities connected by the sea and by a history that unites them, is a paradigm of conjunction between East and West, North and South. It has a complex geopolitical and geostrategic role, as a room for political and anthropological mediation but also of cultural confrontation and, therefore, it is a resource from a global point of view.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that the health of an individual is the health of all, prompting the entire world to move increasingly towards a concept of collective and participatory health.

**Technological, telemedicine and e-Health tools have proved to be fundamental** for the creation of a global health network capable of responding in a timely manner to emergencies, enabling distances to be bridged, geographical obstacles to be overcome and to navigate towards a shared growth.

**The Mediterranean can be thought of as an element of aggregation to expand the horizons of innovation towards new progress models.**

## The Rational

The international Summit aims to **spread knowledge** on the topics of **digital innovation in healthcare** and **to implement telemedicine services bordering the Mediterranean basin up to Middle East**: an opportunity to meet and compare experiences, best practices and indications, identifying new tools and possibilities for the different socio-cultural context.

**MEDITEH BEYOND** was created to **facilitate meetings between Institutions** (Ministries, Embassies, National Bodies, Healthcare Authorities), **organizations in healthcare, scientific and technological research** (Research Institutes, Universities, Hospitals, Healthcare Services, etc.) and **companies involved in the technological sectors** from the Mediterranean, Africa and Middle East.

In this context, Italy represents the land of political, cultural and human connection and Sicily is an ideal interchange territory to give support over time to this idea of shared progress in this field.

**The Summit is meant to promote a cooperation model for a new development of digital health, thus "moving forward together".**

## Organising Task force

### Member of Executive Operating Committee, Diplomatia

**Rosario Filippo Tomarchio**, *Project Leader Health Policy Commission Diplomatia*

### Members of the Health Policy Commission Council, Diplomatia

**Rossana Berardi**, *Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona*

**Monica Calamai**, *General Director of Ferrara Local Healthcare Authority*

**Francesco Franceschi**, *University General Hospital A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rome*

### Secretary of Diplomatia

**Sabina Ciuffa**, *General Secretary and Protocol, Diplomatia*

**Giulia Contemi**, *Secretary, Diplomatia*

**Rita Gattini**, *General Coordinator, Diplomatia*

### Member of the Board of Directors, Diplomatia

**Carola Salvato**, *Advisor for Communications and External Relations*

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**8:00-9:00** | **Summit Registration**

**9:00-9:15** | **Summit Presentation and Opening**

### OPENING

Lawyer Francesco Ago, *Senior VP Diplomatia*  
Rosario Filippo Tomarchio, *Project Leader of Health Policy Commission, Diplomatia*

**9:15-10:15** | **Institutional Greetings from the Italian Authorities**

### SESSION I

*Blended*

- **Diplomatic Advisor to:**
  - the Presidency of Council of Ministers
  - the Ministry of Health
  - the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy
- **Representative of the Foreign Ministry**
- **Hon. Simona Loizzo**, *President of the Interparliamentary Group on digital health*
- **Hon. Renato Schifani**, *President of the Sicilian Region*
- **Hon. Roberto Occhiuto**, *President Intermediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Region (President of the Calabria Region)*
- **Dr. Domenico Mantoan**, *General Director National Agency for Regional Healthcare – AGENAS\* (invited)*
- **Prof. Francesco Priolo**, *Dean of the Catania University*
- **Lawyer Enrico Trantino**, *Mayor of Catania*

Amb. Giovanni Castellaneta, *President of Diplomatia, "The role of diplomacy in the Mediterranean"*

**10:15-12:15** | **Endorsements by diplomatic representatives of the participating countries**

### SESSION II

*Blended*

**Chair:** Amb. Mario Boffo, *Head of Diplomatic Relations Diplomatia*

Session organized by Diplomatia to be attended by countries of the Mediterranean area, Africa and Middle East

*Participating countries are invited to the Summit with their delegates in presence or remotely*

Dr. Fabrizio Chines, *Member of the Board of Farmindustria, "The role of Farmindustria in Digital Health"*

**12:15-13:30** | **Progress in Life Sciences in the Digital Era...**

### SESSION III

*Blended*

**(Continuing Medical Education session for HCPs attending in person)**

**Co-Chairs:** Professor Michael Miller, *WHO Digital Health Technical Advisory Group (DHTAG) Roster of Experts*, Dr. Alessandra Poggiani, *General Director CINECA, Bologna*

- **...the technologist's experience** – Eng. Elena Sini, *Chair HIMSS Board of Directors, Milano*
- **...the bioresearcher's experience** – Prof. Alberico Luigi Catapano, *Director Dept. Pharmacological and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Milan*
- **...the ethical meaning of international digital R&D collaboration** – Amb. of Chile, Dr. Ennio Vivaldi, *Roma \* (invited)*
- **...challenges for Pharma Companies** – Dr. Federico Chinni, *Health Policy Commission Diplomatia*

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**13.30-15.00** | Light Lunch & Networking

**15:00-17:30**

### SESSION IV

#### **WORKSHOP: Digital technologies serving medical-scientific sectors: nowadays & in the future**

**Co-Chair: Vice Amb. of Malta at Roma, Dr. Laura Camilleri \* (invited)**  
**Prof. Francesco Gabbrielli, Lead of R&D on clinical activity in telemedicine, National Agency for Regional Healthcare - AGENAS, Roma**

- **Tensions of personalization. Digital health now and in the future.**  
**Prof. Marco Manca, Co-founder and President SCImPULSE Foundation, Maastricht NH**
- **The convergence of Artificial Intelligence and the Life Sciences: biosecurity risks and reduction opportunities.**  
**Prof. Ali Asy, Pharmacology and Biosafety Advisor at Animal Health Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center, Egypt (ONLINE)**
- **Virtual Care: a global perspective.**  
**Dr. Ed Percy, Vice President, Hospitals and Health Systems Europe, Middle East and Africa, Teladoc Health**
- **Strategies and experiences to facilitate effective development of interoperable health services using digital technologies.**  
**Eng. Elena Bottinelli, Head of digital transition and transformation, San Donato Group, Milano**
- **New challenges from health wearables and sensors for the Arab Hospitals Federation.**  
**Dr. Youssef Bassim, Chairman of the Digital Health transformation and AI Department, Arab Hospitals Federation**
- **How can we innovate work in hospitals using digital technologies?**  
**Prof. Massimo Massetti, Director Cardiac Surgery Unit, University General Hospital A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rome**
- **Transforming healthcare in Saudi Arabia: a journey through digital innovation.**  
**Dr. Abdullah Alotaibi, Medical Director and Head of Telehealth Department, Manzil Healthcare Services, Saudi Arabia**
- **New possibilities for healthcare organizations in UAE using digital technologies.**  
**Prof. Samer Ellaham, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Case Western Reserve University, Gulf Medical University, United Arab Emirates (ONLINE)**

**17:30-19:30**

#### **B2B & Partnership MEETINGS** extra-time in the dedicated area

- **Networking time** with Sponsors, Exhibitors, Attendees

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

09:00-11:00

**Five Working Groups on PRESENT digital healthcare issues**

### SESSION I

The focus of these P-groups is on the analysis of current needs and daily life realities which could be addressed and fulfilled with currently available technologies and what general strategies could be used to properly disseminate them in the territories of MEDITEH member countries. Each of these five groups has to produce on scientific bases a **position paper** with pragmatic transnational indications and agreed proposals for the improvement of accessible and adequate digital healthcare local systems. Time-horizon: one year.

- P1 | Accessibility to treatment and prevention**
- P2 | Management of biggest emergencies**
- P3 | Protection of chronic patients**
- P4 | Care and rehabilitation in digital health**
- P5 | Treatment and clinical research in oncology**

11:00-11:30

**Coffee Break**

11:30-13:30

**Five Working Groups on FUTURE Digital Healthcare R&D Programs**

### SESSION II

The focus of these F-groups is on the analysis of new perspectives in Research & Development on digital health systems highlighting the elements that can best serve for adaptation to national realities. Each of these five groups has to produce on scientific bases a **position paper** outlining future reasonable objectives for innovations in healthcare systems, also giving to the participating countries validated and agreed indications for the best use of their professionals and resources during project cooperation. Time-horizon: five years.

- F1 | Accessibility to treatment and prevention**
- F2 | Management of biggest emergencies**
- F3 | Protection of chronic patients**
- F4 | Care and rehabilitation in digital health**
- F5 | Treatment and clinical research in oncology**

13:30-14:30

**Light Lunch & Networking**

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

14:30-16:30

### SESSION III

#### Round Table on **STARTUP INNOVATION**

**Co-Chairs:** Prof. Francesco Gabbrielli, *Lead of R&D on clinical activity in telemedicine, National Agency for Regional Healthcare - AGENAS, Roma*

Carola Salvato, *Member of the Board of Directors Diplomatia, Coordination e Project Management Workshop Sessions*

**AI & Digital Health:** navigating the new landscape and challenges with **startups**.

The current state and future directions in AI and Digital Health, focusing on the role of startups

16:30-17:30

### SESSION IV

#### Round Table on **CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN'S VISION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL HEALTH**

**Co-Chairs:** Prof. Francesco Gabbrielli, *Lead of R&D on clinical activity in telemedicine, National Agency for Regional Healthcare - AGENAS, Roma*

Carola Salvato, *Member of the Board of Directors Diplomatia, Coordination e Project Management Workshop Sessions*

**The future we will inhabit tomorrow is shaped by the thoughts of today**

**Discussants:**

Dr. Laura Patrucco, *President of Scientific Association for Digital Health (ASSD), Roma*

Monica Calamai, *President of Women Protagonists in Health Care, Ferrara*

Patrizia Ravaioli, *President of Women Leaders in Healthcare, Roma*

Elena Bottinelli, *Head of digital transition and transformation, San Donato Group, Milano*





## Institutional Partners



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**Università  
di Catania**

*\*Endorsement requested*

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