

# Governing digital transformations for health



Building an ecosystem  
for public value

We are a multidisciplinary platform and global consortium of academia, research, public and private sectors aiming to strengthen digital and data governance to improve young people's health and well-being and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The DTH-Lab calls on governments, technology companies and other actors to build trusted digital-first health systems supported by value-based governance and action to address the digital determinants of health. Kindly funded through a grant from Fondation Botnar, the Lab is hosted by the University of Geneva's Faculty of Medicine and based at Campus Biotech.

Please take a few minutes to learn about our goals and activities.

Join us to shape better futures for health.

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Welcome message by Aferdita Bytyqi, DTH-Lab Executive Director

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# Foreword

**"Our mission is to transform health care by embracing Health for All principles and place young people at the epicentre of digital-first health systems."**

Today, we stand at the intersection of health care and digitalization, a pivotal juncture where technology is redefining our approach to health, well-being and equity. The Digital Transformations for Health Lab (DTH-Lab) emerges as a beacon of hope in this transformative landscape.

We embark on a journey that takes us deep into the heart of a consortium dedicated to pioneering a new era in health care. The creation of the DTH-Lab is a testament to our commitment to a future where the digital landscape serves all, particularly our future generation.

The DTH-Lab's genesis lies in the visionary work of the Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing Health Futures 2030, which, in 2021, illuminated the profound impact of digitalization on health and well-being. It underscored a harsh reality: while the world races forward into the digital age, our youth—the very architects of our future—often find themselves on the periphery of health care innovation, health-care systems and access. Their unique needs and experiences have been insufficiently addressed in the design and governance of digital solutions.

We recognized that this narrative needed to change. The DTH-Lab was born out of a collective commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of young people worldwide. Our mission is clear: to transform health care by embracing Health for All principles and place young people at the epicentre of digital-first health systems.

The DTH-Lab's approach represents a dynamic departure from traditional models. We embrace experimentation, innovation and adaptation as we collaborate with policymakers, technology companies and stakeholders from various sectors and with youth at the design and implementation stages. This openness to partnerships, including those with the private sector, sets us apart and underscores our commitment to inclusive solutions.

The structural foundation of the DTH-Lab—a consortium composed of regional hubs in Africa, Asia, and Europe—forms the core of our operations. A Steering Committee, comprising distinguished experts and youth representation, provides strategic and governance advice.

Crucially, young people are not just beneficiaries; they are key partners in our journey. Their involvement in all aspects of our work ensures that their voices and experiences are integral to our solutions.

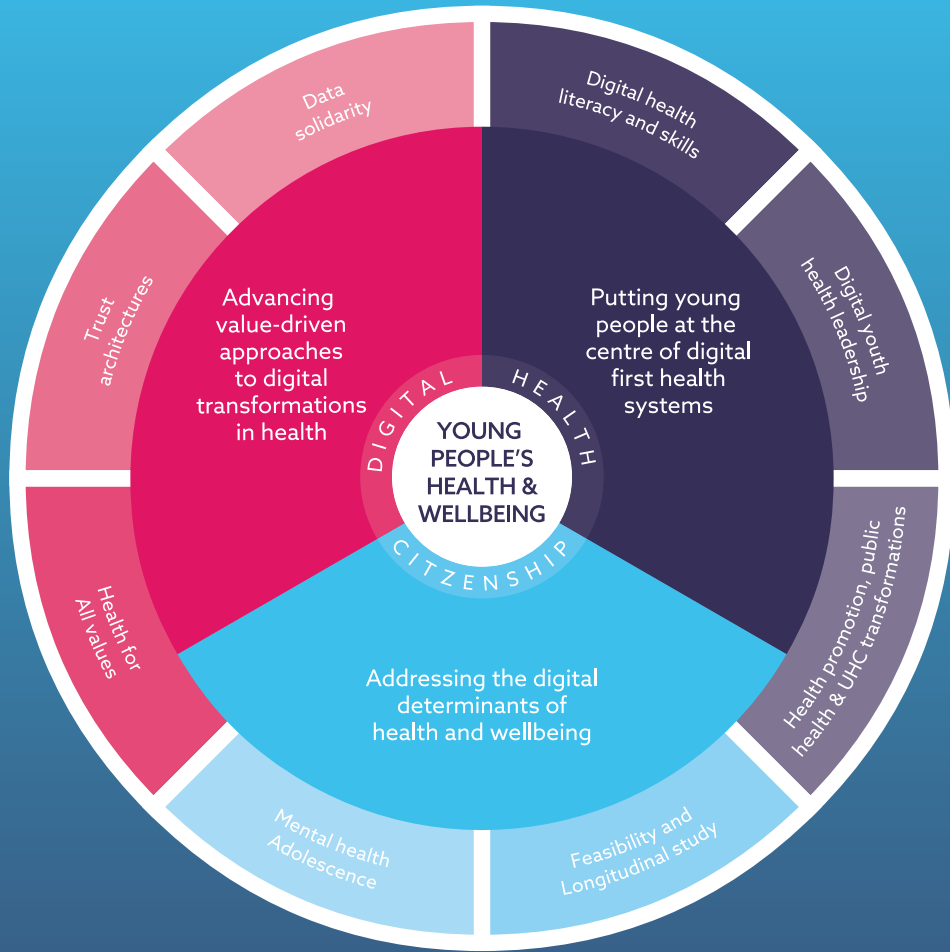
As we set forth on this endeavour, we hold dear the belief that digital transformations must support better health for all individuals, regardless of age, background or circumstance. The DTH-Lab is committed to realizing this vision. Together with our partners and collaborators, we invite you to join us on this remarkable journey towards a future where digital innovations nurture health, well-being and equity for all, with a special focus on our youth.

We look forward to working with you in pursuit of a healthier, more equitable world for generations to come.

**Aferdita Bytyqi**  
Executive Director, DTH-Lab



# DTH-LAB at a Glance



## SIX STEP PATHWAY TO IMPACT

**1**  
Issue identification

Identify areas where new governance solutions may be required to advance UHC and young people's health and wellbeing in an age of digital transformations.

**2**  
Knowledge generation

Analyse existing evidence and conduct or commission research where evidence is currently lacking to inform policy making.

**3**  
Design solutions

Facilitate the participatory, youth-centred design and governance of digital first health systems.

**4**  
Test new approaches

Experiment with governments and partners to test governance solutions and support young people to innovate and solve problems.

**5**  
Develop proof of concepts

Demonstrate feasibility for scale and impact of solutions designed by the DTH-LAB in different contexts.

**6**  
Promote innovation

Convene and collaborate with decision makers from the public and private sector to incorporate proven solutions into policy and practice.

# Our Engagement to Shape a Better Future

Yesterday

The Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing Health Futures 2030: Growing up in a digital world report advocates for better digital and data governance to enhance the well-being of young individuals and facilitate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

The Commission identified four action areas to shape health futures in a digital world:

- recognizing digital technologies as determinants of health,
- building trust in the digital health ecosystem,
- promoting data solidarity,
- investing in digitally transformed health systems.

These actions aim to address health inequalities, protect individual rights, and prioritize public good in the context of digital health.

Today

Now is the time to put the Commission's recommendations into practice.

Breakthrough technologies are developing at a rapid pace. Innovations such as artificial intelligence, mobile apps, metaverse and virtual reality will significantly impact societies worldwide, in turn shaping people's health and well-being. A better future for the younger generation is in our hands, but it requires smart governance of the digital revolution. We know from history that for technological progress to be sustainable, sound policies and equitable distribution of benefits are needed. Digital innovations must be in line with human values. They must be created ethically and transparently. They must serve the social good and strengthen democracies.

Tomorrow

To make these principles and values the foundation of a better and healthier digital future, DTH-Lab will:

- combine cutting-edge research,
- strengthen youth leadership,
- drive innovations in policy and practice,
- shift public and political agendas.

in order to

- put young people at the centre of digital-first health systems;
- advance value-based governance of digital transformations in health;
- address digital determinants of health.

**Prof. Ilona Kickbusch, Director of the DTH-Lab:** The DTH-Lab explores how digital/AI transformations can improve health and well-being and strengthen citizenship and empowerment. Building on the recommendations of the Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing Health Futures, it looks beyond the applications of digital tools and AI in healthcare. It concentrates instead on defining policies and approaches based on public value, solidarity, co-production, digital determinants, and radical digital-first approaches. Health is created in everyday life - the DTH-Lab will present new models of understanding the profound impact of the digital/AI transformations on our health and well-being and sandbox the application of new approaches together with partners ready to move forward.



# Visions and Actions

## Technology will have a growing impact on societies and people

Digital technologies are transforming health and health care across the world and have great potential to improve people's health and well-being. However, weak governance of digital transformations has led to uneven effects globally, endangering democracy, limiting the agency of patients and communities, increasing health inequities, eroding trust, and compromising human rights, including in the field of health.

If we want to reap the positive potentials of the interface between UHC and digital technologies and mitigate risks, we need a value-based governance framework based on Health for All values. We need to think strategically beyond the current fascination with innovation for health care and actively begin to shape the world in the future. If we do not do it, technology will do it for us.

## A wakeup call for health and digital policymakers

Our journey started in October 2019, when a joint Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing Health Futures 2030: Growing up in a digital world was established to explore the relationship between digital transformations and health.

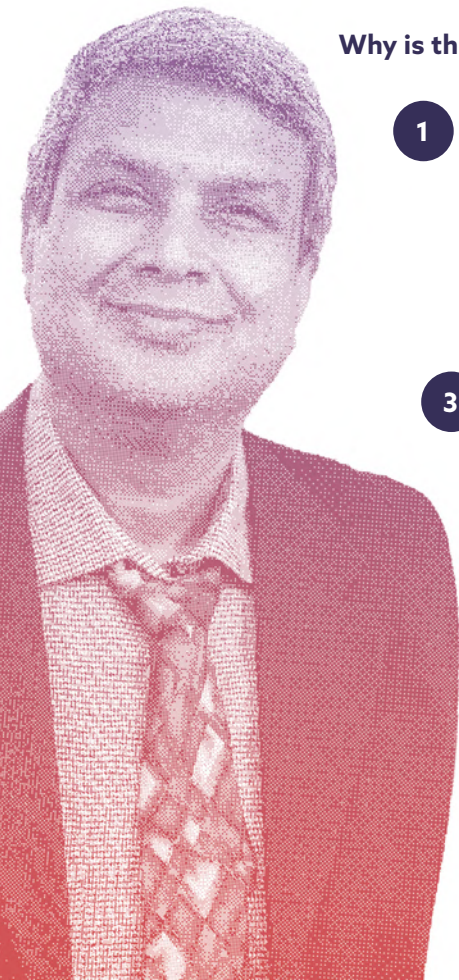
The Commission recommended taking action in three areas to ensure the thriving health and well-being of young people in an age of digital transformations:

- Empower young people to co-design digital-first health systems to increase public participation and digital health citizenship.
- Adopt a mission-oriented and value-based approach to digital and data governance to build public trust in digital health ecosystems, address the unequal distribution of power and resources within and between countries, and close digital divides.
- Recognize the digital ecosystem as an essential determinant of health and establish governance and regulatory frameworks to address their effects.

## Why is the DTH-Lab's mission to govern health futures?

- 1 Digital transformations are significantly changing how we understand health and well-being.
- 2 Governance choices made by governments, technology companies and other actors are critical for determining how digital transformations will improve – or undermine – health outcomes and health equity.
- 3 The increased involvement of diverse young people in the governance of digital transformations is necessary to build digital-first health systems that meet their rights, values and health needs.
- 4 More informed and empowered digital health citizens will positively shape health futures, delivering equitable and sustainable benefits to all.

**Dr Anurag Agrawal, Dean, BioSciences and Health Research, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University:** The history of science, technology and medicine unambiguously shows that scientific or technological triggers shape health care much more than the converse direction of health needs shaping science and technology. In a time when digital transformation is bringing change at every level of society, it is imperative to ensure that changes to health ecosystems are in desirable directions. This is why the DTH-Lab was created, and its purpose is to harness the strength of a young digital generation in understanding and achieving better health for all.



# Open Lab for Healthy Futures

## October 2019

Launch of the Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing health futures 2030: Growing up in a digital world (GHFutures2030).

## October 2021

The Commission publishes a report describing how digital technologies and data are driving significant health transformations in all regions of the world.

## October 2023

Launch of the DTH-Lab during the World Health Summit. Introduction to PLUTO, an online tool to assess the public value of data use.

## 2023 – 2026

DTH-Lab continues its work focusing on 3 strategic areas: Putting young people at the centre of digital-first health systems, advancing value-driven approaches to digital transformations of health, addressing the digital determinants of health and well-being

### The basis of the DTH-Lab's work?

The report by Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing Health Futures 2030: Growing up in a digital world highlights four recommendations:

- Decision-makers, health professionals and researchers consider and address digital technologies as increasingly important determinants of health.
- To create trust in digital health, we must build a governance architecture that enfranchises patients and vulnerable groups, ensures health and digital rights, and regulates powerful players in the digital health ecosystem.
- We need to develop an approach to the collection and use of health data based on the concept of data solidarity, protecting individual rights, promoting the public good potential of such data, and building a culture of data justice and equity.
- Decision-makers must invest in the enablers of digitally transformed health systems. This task will require strong country ownership of digital health strategies and clear investment roadmaps.

### What will the DTH-Lab do now?

The Digital Transformations for Health Lab (DTH-Lab) will implement the Commission's recommendations focusing on:

- Promoting digital-first health systems that are co-designed and governed by young people, responsive to their health needs, and strengthening digital health citizenship.
- Providing governments, technology companies and other stakeholders with guidance on how to build a trusted and inclusive governance architecture based on data solidarity and Health for All values.
- Generating evidence and engaging governments, technology companies, youth organizations and other key actors to address the digital determinants of health.
- Advancing digitally-driven health systems that are collaboratively designed and overseen by young people, addressing their health requirements, and reinforcing digital health citizenship.
- Producing evidence and engaging with governments, technology firms, youth organizations and other influential parties to tackle the digital factors affecting health.

**Njide Ndili, Country Director, PharmaAccess, Nigeria:** The Governing Health Futures 2030 Commission's report, published in October 2021, remains a call to action for all health care stakeholders and policymakers to proactively guide digital transformations towards health equity underpinned by principles of solidarity, trust and addressing the digital determinants of health. A lab approach encompassing continuous experimentation, innovation and observation of changes in the digital health ecosystem is most suited to achieving the required cutting-edge transformation and governance structures. Embedding the activities within established institutions in the host countries with large populations of youth, such as PharmAccess in Nigeria and Ashoka University in India, will enable real-time validation of concepts with local context taken into consideration. Sandboxing of digital health innovations fits well within PharmAccess DNA.



# It's Your Turn. Get Involved

We believe that partnerships are instrumental in driving meaningful change. The DTH-Lab is enthusiastic about collaborating with organizations that share our vision of digital transformations that are led by Health for All values and deliver equitable benefits for the health, well-being and safety of young people and their communities.

**We invite partners from all sectors to support the DTH-Lab's work. There are numerous ways to get involved:**



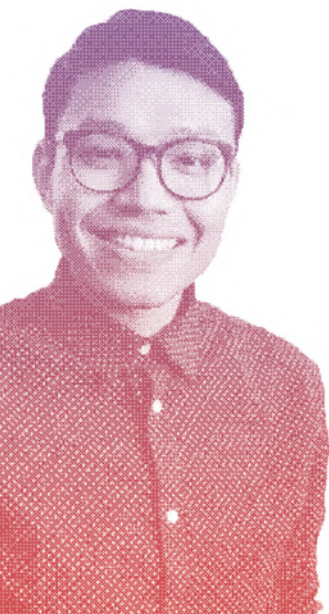
## **Financial Support**

Fund our research, programmes, and initiatives in countries with large populations of young people.



## **Research Collaboration**

Join forces for cutting-edge research on the impact of digital transformations and effective governance approaches.



### **Imane Lakbachi, Regional Youth Champion (Northern Africa and Western Asia):**

I am most enthusiastic about contributing to the impactful implementation of recommendations from the Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing Health Futures 2030. I eagerly anticipate engaging with fellow youth and stakeholders to advocate for meaningful youth inclusion, innovative policy, and digital health citizenship, fostering a healthier future for all.

### **Soe Yu Naing, Regional Youth Champion (Eastern and South-Eastern Asia):**

I'm excited to lead in reshaping health care through digital innovation. I want to emphasize digital tools and ethics, collaborate with governments, and partner with tech firms to make a real impact. Our youth perspective can drive fresh ideas and solutions, addressing digital factors affecting health in our region."





### **Policy Advocacy**

Advocate with us for digital and data policies that prioritize health and well-being.



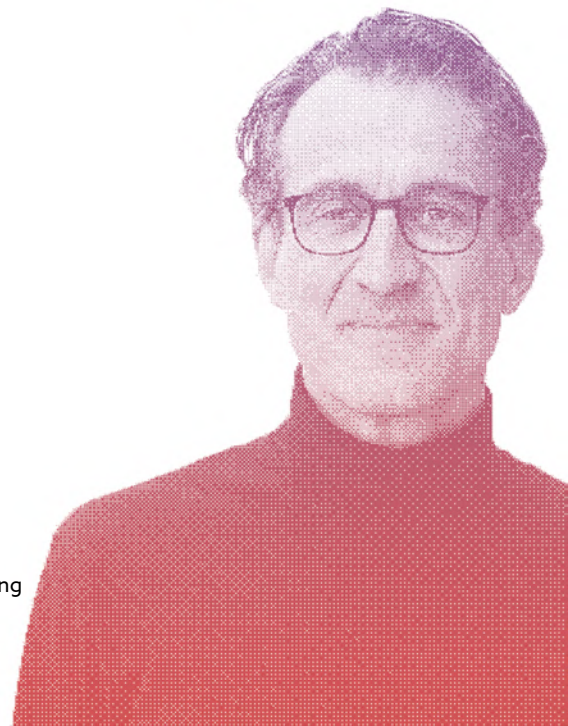
### **Youth Engagement**

Collaborate on youth-led initiatives and co-designed solutions.



### **Resource Sharing**

Share knowledge, expertise and data for greater impact.



**Stefan Germann, CEO of Fondation Botnar:** We are proud to support the DTH-Lab, which will continue the Lancet and Financial Times Commission's ambitious agenda to steer digital transformations that deliver equitable benefits for the health, well-being and safety of young people and their communities.

The DTH-Lab is supported by:

*foundation*  
**BOTNAR**

**IFRE** **Pharm+Access**  
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION  
FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION  
Home of the Ashoka University,  
Delhi, India

The Governing Health Futures 2030 Commission's report  
is available by scanning this QR code :



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For more information, please contact :  
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## Join the Youth Network

The Youth Network brings together young people under the age of thirty invested in the health and wellbeing of young people, and the future of health governance that is being shaped today. The aims of the Network are to build a movement dedicated to digital health governance inspired by the needs of children and young people, generating dialogues, events, and actions that are co-designed and co-governed for and with young people.

