

CALL FOR YOUTH AUTHORED OPINION PAPERS

Digital health citizenship: Advancing digital transformations for health and democracy

DTH-Lab and PLOS Digital Health

November 2024

A key recommendation from the *Lancet* and Financial Times Commission [report](#) on Governing health futures 2030: Growing up in a digital world was to **build a governance architecture that creates trust in digital health by enfranchising patients and vulnerable groups.**

To enable young people to co-design and critically engage with digital health ecosystems, governments should enfranchise communities, advance public participation in all stages of digital health policy and technology development and invest in combined digital, health and civic literacy or digital health citizenship.

The Digital Transformations for Health Lab (DTH-Lab) and PLOS Digital Health are partnering to (a) expand and diversify the evidence base for equitable digital first health systems that respond to the diverse health needs and priorities of young people; (b) build the capacity of young people to shape scientific research and policymaking for better digital health futures; and (c) cultivate youth leadership through the promotion of young thought leaders on issues related to digital and health governance.

This mini-collection, “**Digital health citizenship: Advancing digital transformations for health and democracy**” focuses on building a body of research and diverse perspectives on the concept of [digital health citizenship](#) and its application in different contexts. Young authors (under 35 years) are invited to contribute opinion articles on what digital (health) citizenship means to them and how current and future generations can become more empowered citizens and leaders. This mini-collection also aims to showcase lessons learned from current initiatives to build digital health citizenship, and barriers that must be overcome so more young people can obtain the skills, resources and opportunities to fulfill their potential roles as digital health citizens. This could include but is not limited to:

- Opinions and viewpoints on digital health citizenship in action, highlighting success stories and lessons learned
- Analysis of effective tools and resources for digital health citizenship (or ones that could be applied to health)
- Highlighting barriers to young people meaningfully engaging in digital health citizenship

With a key objective of hearing from youth voices, particularly from LMIC, this mini-collection seeks submissions from authors from the Global South – particularly from countries with [high youth populations](#).

The partners are excited to capture the experiences of young people and feature them as authors through a mini-collection of [opinion articles](#) that will follow the journal's usual submission and peer review process.

Opinion articles provide experts with a forum to comment on topical or controversial issues of broad interest. They address issues at the interface between science and policy or science and society, present a policy position aimed at influencing policy decisions, and examine and make recommendations on scientific and publishing practices. These are meant to be short, opinionated pieces. These articles should be no more than 1,000 words with a figure encouraged and a maximum of 15 references. Opinion articles are not routinely peer reviewed, but are evaluated in detail by the editors, who may decide to seek additional advice from members of the editorial board or external reviewers.

<https://journals.plos.org/digitalhealth/s/what-we-publish>

The open call for papers will run from November to February 2025.

Conflicts of Interest

Authors should note that PLOS Digital Health does not accept research funded by the commercial tobacco, alcohol, ultra-processed food, gambling, arms/weapons, or fossil fuel industries, or organisations funded by these industries. Please check and adhere to PLOS Digital Health's [submission guidelines](#).

Open access

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Contact

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How to submit your paper

Before you submit your paper please review the [submission guidelines](#). You will be asked to create shareable links to your paper, headshot and social media handles. Please complete this short [form](#) to submit your paper.

The deadline for submissions is **23.59 CEST on 28 February 2025**.

Who we are

About Digital Transformations for Health Lab (DTH-Lab)

DTH-Lab is a global consortium of partners working to drive implementation of The Lancet and Financial Times Commission on Governing Health Futures 2030's recommendations for value-based digital transformations for health co-created with young people. The Lab focuses on three main areas of work: co-creating digital first health systems with young people; advancing value-based governance of the digital transformations of health; and addressing the digital determinants of health and well-being.

<http://dthlab.org>

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About PLOS Digital Health

PLOS Digital Health is an interdisciplinary Open Access journal publishing boundary-breaking original academic and clinical research that uses open science practices, digital tools, technologies, and data science to significantly advance human health and health care. The journal publishes primary research articles, commissioned opinions and reviews that explore digital health tools, methods, data and curation that advance health care technologies and decision-making or broaden accessible, effective care options for diverse communities around the world.