

Speakers at the Virtual High-Level Conference Digital Health 2020 – EU on the Move



Prof. Ran Balicer

Founding Director and Director of Health Policy Planning at the Clalit Research Institute

Prof. Ran Balicer, MD, PhD, MPH serves as Chief Innovation Officer for Clalit – Israel’s largest healthcare organization. In parallel, he serves as Founding Director of the Clalit Research Institute, the WHO Collaborating Center on Non-Communicable Diseases Research, Prevention and Control. In these roles, he is responsible for strategic planning, development and implementation of novel organization-wide interventions and innovative technology and data-driven tools for improving healthcare quality, reducing disparities and increasing care effectiveness. Prof. Balicer also serves as a Full Professor and as Track Director in the MPH program at the Ben-Gurion University School of Public Health, Israel, and serves as Chair of the Israeli Society for Quality in Healthcare. He serves as Chair of the National Expert Panel on COVID-19, and as an Advisor to Israeli Government and Prime Minister Office on pandemic response. Prof. Balicer serves as Commissioner for the Lancet and Financial Times Healthy Futures 2030 International Commission, looking for ways to harness innovation globally to improve the health and wellbeing, mainly among young individuals. He also serves in senior advisory groups to the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, and is involved in projects focusing on chronic diseases monitoring, prevention and control, use of big data and artificial intelligence in healthcare, healthcare systems and care integration.



Dr Niklas Blomberg

Director of ELIXIR

Niklas Blomberg is Director of ELIXIR, the European infrastructure for bioinformatics and life-science data, based in Hinxton, UK. Before joining ELIXIR in 2013 as the founding Director he worked in pharmaceutical research with AstraZeneca (1999–2013) where he held a number of different roles including establishing a joint computational biology and computational chemistry team for respiratory research and leading the global cheminformatics unit. Niklas Blomberg holds a Ph.D. in structural bioinformatics and protein NMR spectroscopy from EMBL Heidelberg (1999) and a BSc in Biochemistry from Göteborg University, Sweden. He currently coordinates ELIXIR-EXCELERATE – an EU H2020 project with 45 partners and 29 M€ funding to develop the ELIXIR infrastructure, CORBEL (35 partners, 14M€) to drive interoperability between Europe’s 12 life science research infrastructures and the EOSC-Life (46 partners, 25M€) to build a collaborative digital space for European life science research.



Sophie Boissard

CEO of Korian

Sophie Boissard is a graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA). After having held various positions in the public sector, notably at the State Council, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, she joined the SNCF group in 2008, where she first created and directed the Gares & Connexions department (management and development of train stations), before moving on in 2014 to oversee SNCF Immobilier. Between 2012 and 2014, she was also responsible for the SNCF group's strategy and development. Since 26 January 2016, Sophie Boissard is Chief Executive Officer of Korian. She is also a member of the supervisory board at Allianz SE (an insurance group).



Dr Loubna Bouarfa

Founder and CEO of OKRA Technologies

Dr Loubna Bouarfa is a machine learning scientist turned entrepreneur. She is the founder and CEO of OKRA Technologies – an artificial intelligence data analytics company for healthcare. OKRA allows healthcare professionals to combine all their data in one place and generate actionable, evidence-based insights in real time, to save and improve human lives. Loubna is currently a member of the European Union High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, where she is particularly focused on healthcare and achieving competitive business impact with AI. She was named an MIT Technology Review Top Innovator Under 35, a Forbes 50 Top Women In Tech, and won several prizes, including CEO of Year 2019 at the Cambridge Independent Science and Technology Awards and Best Female-Led Startup at the StartUp Europe Awards. On a personal level, she is a strong advocate for diversity, women and challenging the status quo.



Dr Titus Brinker

Dermatologist and Head of App Development at the National Center for Tumor Diseases Heidelberg

Head of App Development at the German Cancer Research Center and Dermatologist from Heidelberg. Developer of multiple medical apps in smoking and melanoma prevention with a total of more than 1,000,000 Downloads (i.e. “Smokerface”, “Sunface”, “AppDoc”). Founder of the Skin Classification Project (Enhanced Cancer Diagnostics via AI). Founder & secretary of Education Against Tobacco; a tobacco prevention charity implemented at currently 83 medical schools by 3,500 medical students and physicians in 14 countries worldwide. Owner of Smart Health Heidelberg GmbH, a health technology company that develops mobile apps.



Claire Bury

Deputy Director-General DG SANTE, European Commission

Until June this year, Claire Bury held the position of Deputy Director-General of Communication Networks, Content and Technology. Since July 2020, Bury is Deputy Director-General at DG SANTE and responsible for food sustainability as well as innovation and health.



Stephen Donnelly

Minister for Health of the Republic of Ireland

Minister Donnelly holds a First Class Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering from University College Dublin (UCD) and a Masters in Public Administration in International Development at Harvard University. He was first elected an Independent TD (Member of Parliament) for the Wicklow and East Carlow constituency in the 2011 General Election after a six-week campaign and has been re-elected in each election since. He joined Fianna Fáil on their front bench as the party's Brexit spokesman in 2017. In March 2018 he was appointed Fianna Fáil's health spokesman. During his time in opposition, Minister Donnelly served on the Oireachtas (Irish Parliamentary) Finance Committee, Health Committee, Budgetary Oversight Committee and Covid Committee. He was also a member of the Irish Parliamentary Delegation to the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe. Deputy Donnelly was appointed Minister for Health in June 2020.



Prof. Angelika Eggert

Director Department of Paediatrics, Department of Oncology at Charité Berlin

Angelika Eggert is a leading specialist in international cancer research with a focus on paediatric cancers. She was nominated "Einstein Professor" by the Einstein foundation. Eggert and her research team are using new technologies to improve the molecular diagnostics of tumors and find innovative therapeutic approaches.



Thomas Grandell

CEO and Co-Founder of Etsimo Healthcare

Self-proclaimed data-driven healthcare enthusiast, Thomas Grandell wants to see the healthcare sector seize opportunities to adapt to technological innovations. Etsimo offers "a healthcare platform that leverages AI and machine learning on top of health data, making it possible for healthcare providers and insurance companies to instantly offer their customers an engaging experience and predictive and preventive healthcare through existing and future digital channels."



Magnus Heunicke

Minister for Health and Senior Citizens of Denmark

Magnus Heunicke holds a degree from the Danish National School of Journalism. He is a member of the Social Democratic Party where he has held different positions, such as spokesman on IT and telecommunications and vice-chairman of the Science and Technology Committee. Before becoming Minister for Health and Senior Citizens in June 2019, Heunicke was Minister for Transport from 2014–2015.



Prof. Martin Hirsch

Professor for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine

Prof Hirsch holds degrees in neuroscience and physiology and is considered one of the leading international experts in the field of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Prior to his appointment as professor for “Artificial Intelligence in Medicine” at the Philipps University Marburg, Germany, Hirsch co-founded the company Ada Health. Connecting medical knowledge with intelligent technology via a mobile app, Ada health tries to help people globally to actively manage their health and medical professionals to deliver effective care. Hirsch developed the first software version of Ada Health for doctors and - in his role as Chief Scientific Advisor – continues to shape the way Ada’s artificial intelligence system learns today. Furthermore, during the SARS-CoV-2-pandemic, Hirsch developed a web-app that helps citizens of the county self-calculate their probability of having been infected with the virus, and guide them to the most appropriate point-of-care in their region.



Bent Høie

Minister of Health and Care Services of Norway

Bent Høie holds a degree in law. He is deputy member of the Norwegian delegation to the Nordic Council as well as of the Norwegian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. As Minister of Health and Care Services, Høie is responsible for government policy related to hospitals, municipal health care services, preventive measures, psychiatric health and drug addiction.



Dr Esther Insa Calderón

Director of the Escola Superior d’Infermeria del Mar

Esther Insa Calderón is the Manager of the Nursing School del Mar, attached to the Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona. She is a nurse and anthropologist. Dr Insa Calderón holds a PhD in medical anthropology. She has led several innovative educational projects where new technologies are implemented, for instance virtual reality. Insa Calderón is a member of several research groups where she works to improve the value of health education and the use of technology in health.



Kersti Kaljulaid

President of the Republic of Estonia

Kersti Kaljulaid has been holding the office of the President of Estonia as the country’s first female head of state since October 2016. From 2004 to 2016, Kaljulaid served as Estonia’s representative in the European Court of Auditors. She graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences in the field of genetics and holds an MBA in business management from the University of Tartu, where she has been Chairperson of the Board since 2011. Kaljulaid also held management positions in various Estonian companies before being elected president.



Stella Kyriakides

EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Stella Kyriakides has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Reading and a master's degree in child maladjustment from the University of Manchester. She has been the EU Commissioner for Food and Health Safety since 2019. Some of the numerous responsibilities in her Commission portfolio include the creation of a European Health Data Space and the maximisation of the potential of e-health for high-quality healthcare.



Lorena Jaume-Palasi

Founder of the Ethical Tech Society

As an expert in ethics and philosophy of law in the area of digitalisation, Lorena Jaume-Palasi was appointed by the Spanish Government to be part of the National Council on Artificial Intelligence. The non-profit organisation "Ethical Tech Society" she founded aims at highlighting the socio-technological aspect of AI in relation with society.



Yann Le Cam

CEO of EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe

Yann Le Cam is a co-founder of EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe, the voice of rare disease patients in Europe, and has been the organisation's Chief Executive Officer since 2000. He recently served as a member of the European Medicines Agency's Management Board and was vice-chair of the EU Committee of Experts on Rare Diseases and a member of the former Commission Expert Group on Rare Diseases. Le Cam is a patient advocate who has dedicated over 30 years of professional and personal commitment to health and medical research NGOs in France, Europe and the United States in the fields of cancer, HIV/AIDS and rare diseases.



Markus Leyck Dieken, M.D.

Internist, Managing Director of gematik

With over seven years of experience in internal and emergency medicine in Germany and Brazil, Leyck Dieken has also managed several pharmaceutical companies on EU-level. Before becoming Managing Director at gematik, he was global leader of the Teva 2021 care programme for digital patient support and as Senior Vice President established a German affiliate of pharmaceutical company Shionogi for a project on antibiotics prioritized by the WHO.



Prof. Christian Lovis

Professor of Clinical Informatics, University of Geneva

Christian Lovis is a board-certified medical doctor, holds a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Washington and in Biomedical Informatics from the University of Geneva focusing on clinical information systems, clinical data interoperability and medical semantics. He helped shaping the Swiss Federal strategy for eHealth and is member of the National Advisory Board of the Swiss Personalized Health network initiative. Lovis is fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics Association (FACMI).



Dr Bertalan Meskó

Director of The Medical Futurist Institute

Commonly referred to as “The Medical Futurist”, Dr. Bertalan Meskó analyses how science fiction technologies can become reality in medicine and healthcare. In his role as director of The Medical Futurist Institute Dr. Meskó strives to initiate public debate about how the old paternalistic paradigm of medicine is transforming into equal partnerships between patients and professionals and how this process is aided and augmented by disruptive technologies. Dr. Meskó holds a PhD in genomics and teaches as private professor at the Semmelweis Medical School in Budapest, Hungary. With 500+ presentations including courses at Harvard, Stanford and Yale Universities, he is one of the top voices globally on healthcare technology.



Dean Lloyd B. Minor

Dean of the Stanford University School of Medicine

Lloyd B. Minor has held the position of dean since December 2012. He is a scientist, surgeon and an advocate for innovation. At the Stanford School of Medicine, he has launched an initiative in biomedical data science to create a learning health care system by harnessing big data. In addition, Minor has led the development and implementation of an innovative model for cancer research and patient care delivery.



Prof. Frank Ulrich Montgomery

President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), Chairman of the Council of the World Medical Association (WMA)

As a radiology specialist and senior physician at the University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf, Frank Ulrich Montgomery has come to occupy several positions, such as President of the German Medical Association and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the ‘Deutsche Apotheker- und Ärztebank’ (apoBank - German bank for pharmacists and doctors). He advocates a digitalisation strategy that creates an ethical basis for dealing with new technical possibilities, defines the principles of data protection and provides answers to financing questions.



Dr Nuria Oliver

Commissioner for AI and COVID-10 at the Valencian Government

Nuria Oliver boasts over 25 years of experience in data science and artificial intelligence. She holds a PhD from the Media Lab at MIT, is a fellow at the European Association of Artificial Intelligence, the ACM and at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. She is also an elected permanent member of the Royal Academy of Engineering of Spain. Besides, she is currently Commissioner for AI and COVID-19 at the Regional Government of Valencia. At the Vodafone Institute, she conducts research on prospective social benefits of Artificial Intelligence.



Prof. Guido Rasi

Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency (EMA)

Professor Guido Rasi began his second term as Executive Director of EMA on 16 November 2015. From November 2014 to mid-November 2015, Professor Guido Rasi served as EMA's Principal Adviser in Charge of Strategy. From November 2011 to November 2014 he was the Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency and a member of its Management Board in the three years prior to this. He has been elected Chair of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA) from 1st October 2019 for a term of 3 years. He was Director-General of the Italian Medicines Agency from 2008 to 2011 and member of the Management Board from 2004 and 2008. He was made full professor of microbiology at the University of Rome 'Tor Vergata' in 2008. From 2005 to 2008 he was Director of Research at the Institute of Neurobiology and Molecular Medicine of the National Research Council (CNR) in Rome. From 1990 to 2005 Professor Rasi worked at the Institute for Experimental Medicine of the National Research Council, Italy. He had a teaching and research experience at the University of California, Berkeley in 1999. Professor Rasi holds a degree in medicine and surgery, with specialisations in internal medicine, allergology and clinical immunology, from the University of Rome. From 1978 to 1990, he worked as a physician in hospital, research and private practice. He is author of more than 100 scientific publications.



Khalil Rouhana

Deputy Director General of DG Connect, European Commission

Khalil Rouhana is the Deputy Director-General in DG CONNECT (Communications Networks, Content & Technology) since December 2016. His responsibilities include the policies for digital economy and society and notably for research, innovation and industrial strategies, digital solutions for societal challenges and governments as well as cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. Before that he was Director for "Digital Industry" in DG CONNECT supporting the competitiveness of core digital sectors in Europe and the digitisation of all industrial sectors of the economy. In his previous experiences in the Commission, he was the Director for "Digital content & Cognitive systems", the Head of Unit in charge of ICT research and Innovation strategy, and started as a project officer in the ESPRIT programme in the areas of High Performance Computing and Future and Emerging technologies. Before joining the Commission in 1992, he was the director of an institute and school of engineering (Grande Ecole) in France for 5 years. He started his career as research and development engineer for the aeronautics industry, worked for the French University

in Beirut and also created his own engineering company. He has a master's degree in electrical and electronic engineering from "Ecole Supérieure d'Electricité" (Supelec, France).



Tamara van Ark

Minister of Medical Care and Sports, Netherlands

Before being appointed Minister of Medical Care and Sports in July 2020, Tamara van Ark held the position of State Secretary for Social Affairs and Employment. Van Ark studied public administration at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam.



Prof. Effy Vayena

Professor of Bioethics at the Swiss Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich)

Effy Vayena is a renowned expert of the interface between medicine, data and ethics. She focuses on societal issues of data and technology and analyzes the impact of scientific progress on public and personal health. Vayena holds a PhD in Medical History from the University of Minnesota and has been appointed Visiting Professor at the Center for Bioethics at Harvard Medical School and a Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University.



Olivier Véran

Minister of Solidarity and Health of France

Véran has been Minister of Solidarity and Health since 16 February 2020. He worked as a neurologist at the Grenoble-Alpes University Hospital and holds a master's in Business and Health policy from Science po Paris.



Stefan Vilsmeier

Founder and CEO of Brainlab

Stefan Vilsmeier is a self-taught software programmer who wrote a best-selling book on 3D graphics at only 17 years old. Wanting to turn his vision of the hospital of tomorrow into reality, he founded the internationally operating company "Brainlab" in 1989. The designed systems provide hospitals with easily accessible patient data and their processing which benefits doctors and patients equally. For his innovative and successful idea, Vilsmeier was awarded "World Entrepreneur of the Year 2002" by Ernst & Young and "Global Leader for Tomorrow 2003" by the World Economic Forum. In 2018, he was appointed member of the SME advisory committee of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.



Axel Voss

Member of the European Parliament

Axel Voss has been a member of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany since 1996 and became a Member of the European Parliament in 2009. Voss is the European People's Party's spokesperson in the Committee on Legal Affairs since 2017. He studied law in Trier, München and Freiburg with a focus on European law and has been working as a lawyer since 1994.



Dr Wojciech Wiewiórowski

European Data Protection Supervisor

Wojciech Wiewiórowski was appointed European Data Protection Supervisor by a joint decision of the European Parliament and the Council on 5 December 2019 for a term of five years. Before, he was Inspector General for the Protection of Personal Data at the Polish Data Protection Authority and Assistant Professor and Head of Legal IT department at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Gdańsk.



Maya Zlatanova

CEO of FindMeCure

Trying to find treatment for her sick sister, Maya Zlatanova was inspired to initiate a global platform that provides information on available clinical trials. As CEO of “FindMeCure”, she wants to help patients with underexplored diseases find treatments. In addition to helping patients, FindMeCure works with the clinical research industry to provide them with a 360-degree overview of the clinical research landscape powered by real-time data and experts’ insights with the goal of optimizing clinical trials, country and site selection, as well as patient engagement. Besides, Zlatanova is a Board Member of the Patient Empowerment Initiative Committee for the Alliance for Clinical Research Excellence and Safety (ACRES).

Moderators at the Virtual High-Level Conference Digital Health 2020 – EU on the Move



Johannes Büchs

Moderator, TV-host and trainer for storytelling

Johannes Büchs is the anchorman of his own TV show ‘Kann es Johannes?’ and works as author and host for ‘Die Sendung mit der Maus’. In 2012, Johannes Büchs was nominated for the Grimme Prize and in 2013 he was awarded the DGE Journalist Prize. In 2014, he received the environmental media prize and his format “Kann es Johannes?” was rewarded with the Golden Sparrow. In addition to that the show was nominated for the Special Prize for Culture as part of the Grimme Award in 2015 and 2019. As a freelance trainer for presenters, journalists and executives, he supports people to improve their storytelling, interview and presenting skills.



Naomi Lee

Executive Director at The Lancet

Naomi Lee is a Senior Executive Editor at The Lancet. She leads the development and implementation of the research strategy for The Lancet, across a broad range of subjects including her specialist areas of surgery, digital medicine/AI, and medical technology. Naomi joined The Lancet in 2014, previously she studied medicine at Cambridge University and King’s College London, before training in surgery, specialising in urology and working for almost 10 years in the UK. She has also studied data science at University College London and is a vice chair for the ITU/WHO Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence for Health.



Dr Jakob Simmank

Journalist, DIE ZEIT

Jakob Simmank studied medicine in Hamburg, Leipzig and Buenos Aires between 2008 and 2016. He is science and technology editor at the online edition of the leading German weekly DIE ZEIT and member of the Bertelsmann Foundation’s expert network “30 under 40” for digital health.



Dr Magdalena Skipper

Editor in Chief of the journal Nature

Magdalena Skipper obtained her PhD in Developmental Genetics from the University of Cambridge. After serving as an Editor of Nature Review Genetics and the journal Nature Communications, Skipper became the first female Editor in Chief of the journal Nature in 2018.



Dr Regina Vettters

Director of Barmer.i

Regina Vettters studied political science in Berlin, New York and Paris and earned her doctorate on European communication policy. After working in journalism (e.g. at Reuters), and as a research assistant at the Humboldt University of Berlin and the University of Oslo, she worked for 10 years as a management consultant in the healthcare sector at McKinsey & Company. Since April 2017 she is head of Barmer.i – the digital unit of Barmer in Berlin and thus the CDO of Barmer, Germany’s second largest statutory health insurance.



Dr Petra Wilson

Co-Founder and Managing Director of Health Connect Partners

Petra Wilson is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of Health Connect Partners and holds a Doctorate in Public Health Law from Oxford University. She also works as a Senior Advisor in the large international consultancy firm FTI Consulting, leading new work for the healthcare team. Wilson has previously held the posts of CEO of the International Diabetes Federation and Senior Director of Connected Health in Cisco. Prior to that, she served as a scientific officer in the eHealth Unit at the European Commission for eight years.



Tjasa Zajc

Founder and host of the Faces of digital health podcast

Tjasa Zajc is the founder and host of the Faces of digital health podcast and currently works at the healthcare IT company Better as a part of the electronic prescribing and medication management system team. Zajc has been involved in different international digital health organizations and publications (Startupbootcamp Digital Health Berlin, FTR4H, MedTech Engine), has organized several international conferences on digital health and was involved as a speaker, moderator or panelist in various international digital health and blockchain-related events worldwide.