

Curated By:

دائرة الصحة  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



# Health Leaders Forum

## 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024

### Summary Report

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**“Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week does not end here with this event. It is a **continuous, year-round platform for action and collaboration.** Together, let’s accelerate our efforts to engage and sustain our dialogue and efforts.”**

**H.E. Mansoor Ibrahim Al Mansoori**  
Chairman of Department of Health – Abu Dhabi

# 1. ADGHW Health Leaders Forum

May 13, 2024

## Overview

The Health Leaders Forum (HLF) brought together global leaders to focus on tackling the changes and challenges of global health. The Forum comes at a pivotal time in the global healthcare sector as the industry strives to establish a stronger, accessible, interconnected system.

The 2024 theme, ‘Transforming the Global Health Ecosystem: From Healthcare to Health’, marks a significant paradigm shift in how societies approach the concept of well-being and reflects a broader understanding of what constitutes true health – a departure from the traditional reactive model of treating illnesses to a proactive focus on promoting holistic health and wellness.

As an always-on platform, the Health Leaders Forum aims to gain strength and authority over the next couple of years to build a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient global ecosystem.

The Health Leaders Forum welcomed leaders to participate in high-level collaborative conversations including ministers and public officials, CEOs, international investors, innovators, heads of multilateral organisations, leading experts across science, health, and medicine.



60

**SPEAKERS**

18

**SESSIONS**

200<sup>+</sup>

**VIPs IN  
ATTENDANCE**

# 2. Collaboration and Knowledge-Sharing Platforms

Across four thematic pillars



**Public-Private Partnerships**



**Technology, AI, & Innovation**



**Global Health Equity & Sustainability**



**Ethics & Standards**

## Act 1: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Coming from both the public and private sector, the platform recognises the need for robust investment in overall population health and well-being, and redefining the role of PPPs in health investment. Together we are intent on driving effective collaboration across all stakeholders at local, regional, and global levels, to improve health outcomes and equity, at scale, and examine how PPPs can bolster these investments to drive better health outcomes at a local, regional, and global scale.

## Act 2: Technology, AI, & Innovation:

There are increasingly new technologies being utilised in the service of health and care. Advancements in AI-enabled technologies in healthcare delivery, and the globalisation of health data are sending existing healthcare systems and regulatory environments into uncharted waters. Meanwhile, consistent, continuous access to AI communications can improve healthcare delivery through increased personalisation and real-time modifications, but are these methods providing a “human touch” sufficient to significantly advance the quality and efficiency of medical care?

## Act 3: Global Health Equity & Sustainability

Rapidly advancing technologies and medical breakthroughs result in frontier-tech and cutting-edge therapies that require a healthcare workforce with highly specialised skills. Scaling up educational and investment systems to provide the training required is the critical next step to address the rapid advancement in next-gen treatments – and prepare the next generation of medical and healthcare professionals. Additionally, critical threats from infectious diseases and the impact of climate change present a game-changing threat to global health and healthcare, while investments in R&D and implementation are required to update and replace long-standing defenses.

## Act 4: Ethics & Standards

Increasing R&D budgets for AI can drive speed and efficiencies in treatment development, lead to new discoveries, and eliminate biases. By harnessing AI’s potential, breakthroughs are possible in drug efficacy testing, patient response prediction, healthcare personalisation, and treatment success rate increases. Additionally, global data collection, communication, and collaboration has the potential to power the convergence and understanding of diverse data sets, driving both the democratisation of health and rapid advancement in personalised, precision care. How are healthcare leaders adapting to these transformations, and what should patients, healthcare workers, and companies expect to see in the coming years?

# 3. Opening Panel Discussions

## Reimagining Health and Life: Partnering to Invest in Human Life

- Featured leaders representing both public and private sectors—ranging from institutional heads and policymakers to philanthropists and innovators, who acknowledged the imperative of substantial investment in advancing overall population health and global healthcare.
- To enhance community wellness and achieve significant improvements in health outcomes on a large scale, speakers discussed redefining the scope of Public-Private Partnerships and strategic investment efforts aimed at fostering effective collaboration among stakeholders at local, regional, and global levels, by prioritising equitable health outcomes, harnessing innovation, and bolstering infrastructure development, to pave the way for a healthier and more resilient future.

“The innovations that I see now, play a huge role in disrupting the sector. This really helps the governments, as they are not always thinking about just health care but thinking of health and prevention.” **H.E. Mariam Al Mheiri**

- 
- **H.E. Mariam Al Mheiri**, Head of International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court, CEO of 2PointZero
  - **Tony Elumelu**, Chairman, UBA Group and Founder, Tony Elumelu Foundation
  - **H.E. Monica Geingos**, Former First Lady of Namibia; UNAIDS Special Advocate for Young Women and Adolescent Girls
  - **Badr Jafar**, CEO, Crescent Enterprises; Special Envoy for Business & Philanthropy

## Spotlight: Health Solutions from the Global South

- Speakers discussed how entrepreneurial ventures have a critical role to play in their countries’ economy and as drivers of innovation. With a combination of medical expertise, inventive thinking, and entrepreneurial flair, speakers explored solutions that can have a local and global impact from Global South entrepreneurs.
- Innovative entrepreneurs recognisably play a critical role in accelerating the adoption of new technologies and their delivery of healthcare to the largest number of recipients. They produce innovative, holistic and cost-effective solutions that are urgently needed, and can be delivered in resource-deprived settings.

“There is a trend that healthcare is moving away from the four walls of the hospital and going into your personal space at home. And home healthcare is becoming [a sort of] something where you would like to know what medicine that you'd like to have, what is going on at the moment and then through an AI bot, you can get an answer.” **H.E. Badr Al Olama**

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- **H.E. Badr Al Olama**, Director General at the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development; Director General of the Abu Dhabi Investment Office
  - **Brendah Nantongo**, Co-founder, Kaaro Health
  - **Nidhi Pant**, Co-founder, S4S Technologies
  - **Arjun Sarker**, CEO, Dawn Medical

# In Pictures | Reimagining Health and Life: Partnering to Invest in Human Life



*\*Representative images shown*

## In Pictures | Spotlight: Health Solutions from the Global South



*\*Representative images shown*



# 4. Panels, Spotlights, and Perspectives

## ACT 1: Public-Private Partnerships

### Leadership Perspective:

**H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri**, Minister of the Economy, UAE

### Health Capital: Can PPPs eliminate the global healthcare investment deficit

- **H.R.H. Princess Dr. Haya Bint Khaled Bin Bandar Al Saud**, Vice President of Research, Hevolution Foundation
- **H.E. Dr Jean Kaseya**, Director General, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)
- **Courtney Powell**, COO, 500 Global
- **Michel Demaré**, Chairman, AstraZeneca
- **Jennifer Johnson**, CEO, Franklin Templeton

### Leadership Perspective:

**Shaista Asif**, Group Chief Executive Officer, PureHealth

### Strategizing Supply: Bridging the gap from health needs to healthcare delivery

- **H.E. Adonis Georgiadis**, Minister of Health; Vice President of Nea Demokratia; Member of Parliament of the B1 Northern Sector of Athens, Greece
- **Tala Ismail Al Ramahi**, Chief Strategy Officer, Reaching the Last Mile
- **Uwaidh K. Al-Harethi**, CEO, Olayan Saudi Holding Company
- **Tarek Sultan**, Vice Chairman, Agility

## ACT 2: Ethics & Standards in Healthcare and Life Sciences

### Human UX: Maintaining humanity in an era of AI-enabled and digital healthcare

- **H.E. Dr. Teodoro Javier Herbosa**, Secretary of Health, Department of Health, Philippines
- **Isabel Afonso**, CEO, Arcera
- **Dr. Tad Funahashi**, Chief Innovation Officer, Kaiser Permanente
- **Otto Konstantin Lindner**, Managing Director & Co-Founder, HOSPITALITY X and The Zipper Hotel & Apartments

### Beyond Brain-Tech: How to regulate the next healthcare revolution

- **Dmitry Kaminskiy**, General Partner, Deep Knowledge Group
- **Professor Jacques Moret**, Professor and Consultant Interventional Neuroradiology and Honorary Chairman, NEURI center, Bicetre University Hospital
- **Matthew Stoudt**, Co-founder and CEO, AppliedVR
- **Maurizio Vecchione**, Chief Innovation Officer, Terasaki Institute for Biomedical Innovation

### Healthcare Industry 4.0: How is AI changing business models?

- **H.E. Omar Al Olama**, Minister of State for AI, UAE
- **Dr. Giles W.L. Boland**, President, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- **Thomas Rudy**, Chief Investment Officer, LEAD Sports & Health Tech Partners
- **Dr. Mathias Goyen**, Chief Medical Officer EMEA, GE Healthcare

## ACT 3: Global Health Equity & Sustainability

### Frontier Training: Building tomorrow's health talent pipeline

- **H.E. Anahit Avanesyan**, Minister of Health, Ministry of Health, Armenia
- **Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali**, Deputy CEO and Chief Academic Officer of Dubai Health and Provost of the Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences
- **Michael Oberreiter**, Head of Global Access & Policy, Roche Pharmaceuticals
- **Professor Eric P. Xing**, President & Professor of Computer Science, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence

### Outpacing Evolution: How to stop the next pandemic?

- **H.E. Dr. Khaled Abdel-Ghaffar**, Minister of Health and Population, Ministry of Health and Population, Egypt
- **Dr. Crystal Lee**, Assistant Professor, College of Population Health of the University of New Mexico, CEO & Founder of United Natives; Member of the Diné/Navajo Nation
- **Dr. Fouzia Shafique**, Associate Director, Health, UNICEF, HQ
- **David Wilson**, Program Director Health, Nutrition & Population, World Bank

### Future-Proofing Society: Critical climate-tech innovations for healthcare

- **H.E. Dr. Farida Ismail Al Hosani**, Executive Director Communicable Diseases, ADPHC
- **Dr. Imane Kendili**, President, African Global Health
- **Jan-Willem Scheijgrond**, Vice President Government and Public Affairs, Philips

## ACT 4: Technology, AI, & Innovation

### Examining R&D: How to fund AI disruption for critical health-tech advancement

- **Nisa Leung**, Managing Partner, Qiming Venture Partners
- **Dr. Liping Liu**, Founder & CEO, HighTide Therapeutics
- **Sir Patrick Vallance**, Former UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser; Strategic Counselor, Tony Blair Institute
- **Sergey Young**, Co-founder, BOLD Longevity Growth Fund
- **Dr. Alex Zhavoronkov**, Founder & CEO, Insilico Medicine

### Data Drive: How to facilitate health information collaboration on a global scale

- **Elena Bonfiglioli**, Global Business Leader, GM Healthcare, Pharma and Life Sciences, Microsoft
- **Dr. Ning Li**, Vice President, BGI Group
- **Professor Andrea Britta Maier**, MD PhD, Oon Chiew Seng Professor in Medicine, National University of Singapore; Co-Founder, NUS Academy for Healthy Longevity, National University of Singapore; Founder, Chi Longevity
- **Isabelle Portebois Benjelloun**, Global Life Sciences Lead at IFC (a member of the World Bank Group)

# 4a) Key Comments, by Thematic Pillar

## ACT 1: Public-Private Partnerships



*“Tourism is a big sector. When you look at healthcare, wellness, and eco; they go hand in hand. And when we look at Abu Dhabi, it has the growth of medical tourism, wellness tourism, and ecotourism. Abu Dhabi stands out as an attractive city in the region.”*

**H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri** - Minister of the Economy, UAE

*“We’re working on policy reform, funding early research, and impactful investments that focus on interventions and drugs that can decrease age-related diseases. This is crucial as we aim to extend healthy lifespans for the benefit of all humanity.”*

**HRH Princess Dr. Haya Bint Khaled Bin Bandar Al Saud** - Vice President of Research, Hevolution Foundation

*“The need is for public-private partnership to involve venture capitalists, as well as government and sovereign funds around the world, to be able to create the startup ecosystem that allows health tech innovators and innovation at the earliest stages to continue and grow.”*

**Courtney Powell** - Chief Operating Officer - 500 Global

*“In order to achieve [universal healthcare coverage], we did a lot of reforms. Many of these reforms involved appealing to private-public partnerships, in order to find ways to utilize the capabilities of the private sector alongside the public infrastructure and systems we have. And now as I speak, my main task as the Minister of Health is how we can optimize the collaboration between the private and public sectors in healthcare delivery models.”*

**H.E. Adonis Georgiadis** - Minister of Health, Greece

*“Philanthropic capital is a powerful force for catalysing health entrepreneurs and driving positive change in healthcare.*

*We need the intersection of philanthropy, private sector and public sector to make the world a better place.”*

**Tony Elumelu** - Chairman, UBA Group and Founder, Tony Elumelu Foundation

*“When I talk about this concept of public-private partnership, I add plus communities because in the context of Africa, when you are in a rural area, communities need to lead the health sector because the community health workers are taking a permanent role for the delivery of health services.”*

**H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya** - Director General - Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)



# In Pictures | ACT 1: Public-Private Partnerships



*\*Representative images shown*

# 4b) Key Comments, by Thematic Pillar

## ACT 2: Ethics & Standards in Healthcare and Life Sciences



*“We can change and reform the way we deliver health care. But what's important is that a lot of people in technology, finance, and other professions do not understand that there is ethics involved in taking care of the lives of people for a whole population.”*

**H.E. Dr. Teodoro Javier Herbosa** - Secretary of Health, Department of Health, Philippines

*“Artificial intelligence is actually amplifying our abilities, but not replacing our humanity. And I think this is a very important reflection, from my point of view, because as humans, we actually need to continue to have empathy, creativity and ethics.”*

**Isabel Afonso** - Chief Executive Officer, Arcera

*“My vision is that in X number of years, a digital device would contain your biological twin in terms of data generated that predicts the physiology of your disease the physiology of your body or key physiological systems.”*

**Maurizio Vecchione** - Chief Innovation Officer, Terasaki Institute for Biomedical Innovation

*“Whether we should be optimistic or pessimistic, my view is we cannot afford to be pessimistic, because the world is moving at such a pace where we need to be optimists. But at the same time, we need not to be blind or too optimistic or we do not see what valid applications might come.”*

**H.E. Omar Sultan Al Olama** - Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, UAE

*“From a purely engineering viewpoint, what if we could reach into your homes and then provide that diagnosis for you? When we look at that, the equity of care improves substantially because one of the inequities of care are that many people do not have the resources, the time, the transportation to come in and see us, so they don't get the equivalent amount of care.”*

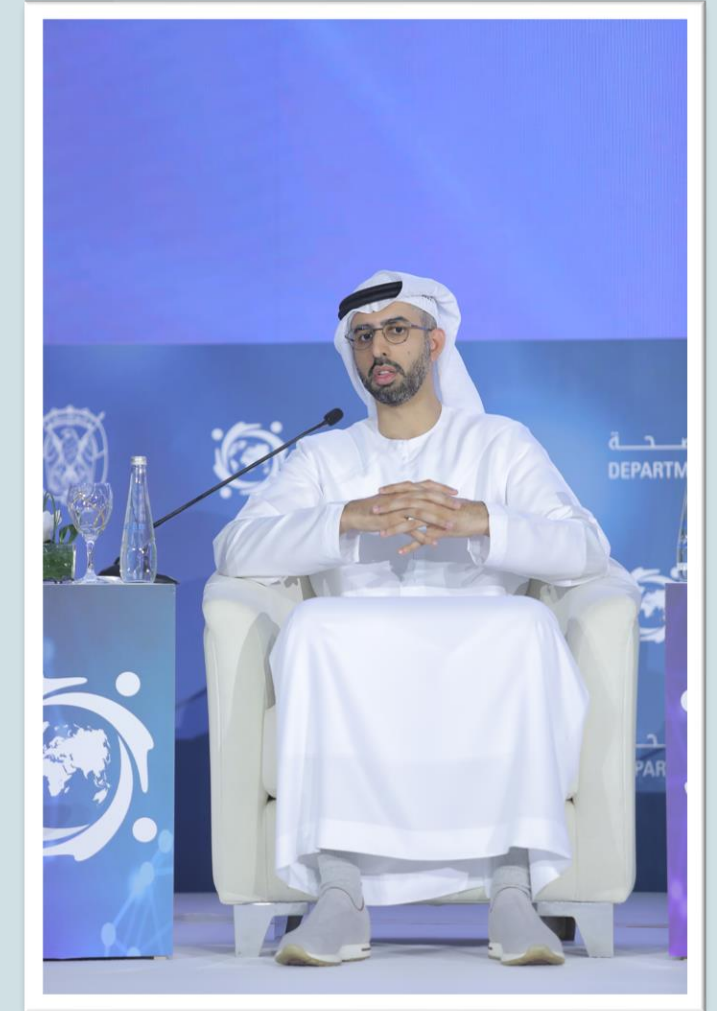
**Dr. Tad Funahashi** - Chief Innovation Officer, Kaiser Permanente

*“You're seeing the potential for VR and mixed reality to be able to address a wide variety of disease conditions ranging from PTSD... to depression, anxiety, autism, and just a wide variety here.”*

**Matthew Stoudt** - Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, AppliedVR



# In Pictures | ACT 2: Ethics & Standards in Healthcare and Life Sciences



*\*Representative images shown*

# 4c) Key Comments, by Thematic Pillar

## ACT 3: Global Health Equity & Sustainability



*“We have initiated a very intensive project to reorganize and upgrade the capacities of our health workforce in primary healthcare. It is important to understand the new infrastructures needed in the future, and most importantly to put the patient in the centre.”*

**H.E. Anahit Avanesyan** - Minister of Health,  
Ministry of Health, Armenia

*“I believe that transforming the global health ecosystem from traditional, reactive model from treating illness to proactive, focusing on promoting holistic health and wellness is a complete paradigm shift. ... And I think part of it is how to optimize our pre-risk early pandemic surveillances and how to sustain our system to be more agile and more resistant in order to work in a situation of future pandemics.”*

**H.E. Dr. Khaled Abdel-Ghaffar** - Minister of  
Health and Population, Egypt

*“One of the key things that the communities and the health system need to have for things to work is trust, and trust cannot be built when you're in the middle of an emergency. Trust has to be built and it has to exist before an emergency strikes. Community health workers play a really important role ... so that the communities trust the health system.”*

**Dr. Fouzia Shafique** - Asst. Director, Health,  
UNICEF HQ

*“Impact investment holds the key to driving sustainable solutions in healthcare and improving lives worldwide.”*

**Badr Jafar** - Chief Executive Officer - Crescent  
Enterprises and UAE's Special Representative for  
Business & Philanthropy

*“Those three dimensions of knowledge, skill, and behavior have been the cornerstone of what people think about when they design educational experiences for future health care providers. Central to that is imagining the ultimate outcome.”*

**Professor Alawi Alsheikh-Ali** - Deputy Chief  
Executive Officer and Chief Academic Officer of  
Dubai Health and Provost of the Mohammed Bin  
Rashid University of Medicine and Health  
Sciences

*“We have become really good in developing those hyper-local solutions, which really work very, very well within local communities, sometimes even a region. What we are still missing is scalability of those solutions and transfer them from one region to another, from one country to another.”*

**Michael Oberreiter** - Head of Global Access &  
Policy, Roche Pharmaceuticals



# In Pictures | ACT 3: Global Health Equity & Sustainability



*\*Representative images shown*

# 4d) Key Comments, by Thematic Pillar

## ACT 4: Technology, AI & Innovation



*“What is most important is to transform the data into information, and the information into knowledge.”*

**Dr. Ning Li** - Vice President, BGI Group

*“Over the last year data has tremendously accelerated with AI. Not just the ability to digitize data, to digitize it and share with clear governance. ... There is no personalized features for precision medicine, if we don't start a culture of data sharing.”*

**Elena Bonfiglioli** - Global Business Leader, GM Healthcare, Pharma and Life Sciences, Microsoft

*“We need to make sure that we set a specific target for the underserved populations that we're trying to serve as a nation. I also think that's where our driving force comes from, how to make sure that we touch everyone's lives.”*

**Jan-Willem Scheijgrond** - Vice President Government and Public Affairs, Philips

*“Don't forget social determinants of health when we build out these models of social determinants of health. They are the biggest factors that affect our health outcomes.”*

**Dr. Zubin J Daruwalla** - Asia Pacific Health Industries Leader, PwC

*“I think the first step before sharing data is how to capture data, data or just good data if you can find what to measure how to measure the course, then think about sharing.”*

**Isabelle Portebois Benjelloun**, Global Life Sciences Lead at IFC

*“I think we have lots of data in certain areas; electronic health records, genome sequencing, phenotype, genotype relationship. ... Those very large data sets are in a sense a national resource, and there ought to be some way in which the national resource can be valued so that people can see that this is actually benefiting people.”*

**Sir Patrick Vallance** - Strategic Counselor, Tony Blair Institute





# In Pictures | ACT 4: Technology, AI & Innovation



*\*Representative images shown*

# Health Leaders Forum Initiatives Summary

# 6. Initiatives Overview

## DESCRIPTION

## OUTCOMES

### PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Redefining the role that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) play in driving investments and advancements in health and healthcare outcomes at a local, regional, and global scale. Recognising the role of robust investment in overall population health and well-being and the required critical component of directed and effective collaboration across public-private stakeholders and sectors of society - from government leaders and policymakers to CEOs, innovators, and investors.

- Abu Dhabi Health & Life Sciences Research Innovation Fund
- Global Accelerator for Digital Health PPPs

### TECHNOLOGY, AI & INNOVATION

Spotlighting and examining the most promising and ground-breaking innovations in AI technology in the healthcare industry - tackling exciting new opportunities and critical issues around big data, healthcare access, algorithms and biases, digital health and privacy, and genomics. Discussing and driving investment in R&D to advance technologies that can optimise healthcare delivery and global healthcare outcomes - and preparing the workforce for a tech-forward future.

- Health AI Academy
- International Consortium for Real-World Data & Global Genomic Knowledge Bank

### GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY

Addressing the imperative of ensuring equitable access to healthcare services and interventions for all, regardless of socio-economic status or geographic location. Examine strategies for the global collaboration and dissemination of critical medical knowledge and data, reducing disparities in healthcare access, boosting healthcare infrastructure, and promoting health equity through policy and innovation.

- 'Towards Health Equity: Bridging the Gap for Individuals with Autism through Public Policy and Technology' White Paper

### ETHICS & STANDARDS IN HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES

Addressing not just the rewards but the inherent, risks, uncertainties, privacy, and security concerns in this new tech-enabled world of digital health, AI, and collaborative data collection and sharing. Fortifying not just existing safeguards but also tackling the challenge of creating a new global regulatory framework and agreed ethical guidelines required for this new globalised and tech-enabled healthcare environment.

- Declaration on bioconversion

# 7a. Abu Dhabi Health & Life Sciences

## Research Innovation Fund

### Public Private Partnerships

#### Introduction

This initiative activates the Ma'an Health & Life Sciences Research Innovation Fund, which is a strong representation of public-private partnerships with contributions from the private, public and third sector partners. In collaboration with the Authority of Social Contribution - Ma'an, the Fund aims to strategically drive social innovation for research and development within the health sector.

#### Objective

To serve as a platform for diverse partners to create and achieve advanced research infrastructure, allocate funding towards research and innovation projects and facilitate clinical trials focused on improving the health and well-being of Abu Dhabi's community and beyond for a brighter future of global health.

The initiatives aims to expand the Fund's coverage beyond just life sciences, e.g. academia, hospital systems, payers, etc.

#### Key Outcomes at Health Leaders Forum

- Announcing commitments from United Al Saqer Group, The Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), Mubadala, PureHealth, Burjeel Holdings, and M42.
- A panel on the topic of public-private partnerships was also hosted during the Health Leaders Forum.



Above L to R: **H.E. Dr. Noura Al Ghaithi** - Undersecretary of the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, **Hasan Jassem Al Nowais** - Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of M42, **H.E. Dr. Mugheer Khamis Al Khaili** - Chairman of the Department of Community Development, **Shaista Asif** - Co-Founder and Group Chief Operating Officer of PureHealth, **H.E. Mansoor Ibrahim Al Mansoori** - Chairman of Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, **Shamsheer Vayalil** - Founder & Chairman of Burjeel Holdings, **H.E. Salama Al Ameen** - Director General, The Authority of Social Contribution - Ma'an

# 7b. Health AI Academy

## Technology, AI & Innovation



### Introduction

The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi has partnered with Mohamed bin Zayed AI University (MBZAIU) to launch a Healthcare AI Academy, whose purpose will be to establish various courses designed to advancing AI in healthcare. It will also conduct mass training sessions, accommodating up to 100 attendees, for the Abu Dhabi healthcare workforce. Selected participants from these sessions will have the opportunity to pursue more customised courses based on their specific line of work. Tailored educational courses will also target C-suite and operational staff.

### Objective

The Academy aims to:

- Upskill the health sector in data & AI capabilities across leadership, clinicians and health administrators alike
- Act as a platform for knowledge transfer, research and innovation of the latest advancements in healthcare and medical technology
- Forge strategic partnerships to leverage expertise, resources, and best practices in AI, data, and predictive analytics in healthcare
- Make courses available on a virtual platform, eventually enabling expansion of the Academy outside the UAE

### Key Outcomes at Health Leaders Forum

An MoU was signed between Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, with Mohamed bin Zayed AI University and Core42 - a G42 company, offering AI solutions, to launch the Academy at Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week.



**Back L to R: H.E. Dr. Noura Al Ghaithi** - Undersecretary of the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, **H.E. Mansoor Ibrahim Al Mansoori**, Chairman of Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, **Kiril Evtimov**, Chief Executive Officer, Core 42

**Front L to R: Sultan Al Hajji** - Vice President of Public Affairs and Alumni Relations at MBZUAI, **Dr. Rashed Obaid Alsuwaidi** - Executive Director of Healthcare Workforce Planning Sector at Dept. of Health Abu Dhabi, **Talal AlKaissi** - Executive Vice President, Chief Product and Global Partnership Officer at Core42

*“We recognise the transformative and life-saving potential of AI across a wide range of diagnostic and treatment areas ... we are proud to partner with The Department of Health – Abu Dhabi in launching the new AI Healthcare Academy ... world-class faculty to facilitate AI workshops and training to upskill the healthcare workforce in support of the UAE leadership’s vision to become a global hub for AI and a centre for life sciences.”*

**Sultan Al Hajji**, Vice President of Public Affairs and Alumni Relations at MBZUAI

# 7C. 'Towards Health Equity: Bridging the Gap for Individuals with Autism through Public Policy and Technology' White Paper

## Global Health Equity & Sustainability

### Introduction

Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre (ADPHC) and PwC Middle East published a white paper, titled '*Towards Health Equity: Bridging the Gap for Individuals with Autism through Public Policy and Technology*' during Abu Dhabi Global Health Week.

The paper is structured around four key areas:

1. The Impact of Social Determinants on Autism
2. Public Policy: Catalysing Improved Health Equity in Autism Care
3. Technology as an Enabler for Improving Health Equity for Individuals with Autism
4. Actionable Public Policy Strategies for Technological Integration

### Objective

The white paper aims to mobilise stakeholders, including policymakers, healthcare providers, technology developers, and the autism care community, to collaborate in nurturing an ecosystem that not only addresses but anticipates the needs of individuals with autism. By aligning efforts across these domains, the paper advocates for a society where health equity isn't merely an aspiration, but a reality for all.

### Key Outcomes at Health Leaders Forum

The white paper was announced at Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week with a presentation of a QR code enabling attendees to access and download the paper online.



The full report can be downloaded [here](#)

1.

#### **The Impact of Social Determinants on Autism,**

exploring how factors such as socioeconomic status, education, and community influence the health equity of people with autism.

2.

#### **Public Policy: Catalysing Improved Health Equity in Autism Care,**

discussing the instrumental role of government and public policy in promoting health equity for individuals with autism.

3.

#### **Technology as an Enabler for Improving Health Equity for Individuals with Autism,**

highlighting the role of technology and digital literacy in promoting equitable care, and showcasing a selection of autism-tailored innovative technologies currently in use around the world.

4.

#### **Actionable Public Policy Strategies for Technological Integration,**

proposing a series of strategic recommendations for health authorities around the world on how technology may be better enabled through public policy to enhance the health equity of individuals with autism.

# 7d. Declaration of Principles on Bioconversion

## Ethics & Standards in Health and Life Sciences



### Introduction

The Declaration outlines global principles covering guidance on transparency, accountability, and bias mitigation, as well as research ethics and ethical decision-making in the field of Bioconvergence. It has received collaboration from leading local and global entities together with the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, including Amazon, Microsoft, UAE University (UAEU), Core 42, and Masdar City.

### Objective

Segmented into six strategic pillars, the principles aim to advance bioconversion research and development, encourage investment in the field to address urgent healthcare challenges, establish international cooperation frameworks, prioritise research areas in public health and personalised medicine, and promote the adoption of advanced technologies such as AI and nanomedicine.

In so doing, the initiative aims to raise awareness on the benefits and risks of bioconvergence technologies, establishing ethical guidelines, ensuring accessibility and affordability for all. Additionally, fostering collaboration and the exchange of knowledge among stakeholders, advocating for supportive policies and regulations, and engaging the community through awareness campaigns and transparent communication are crucial steps in advancing bioconvergence research and innovation while maintaining community trust and support.

### Key Outcomes at the Health Leaders Forum

The Declaration of Principles on Bioconvergence was signed at Abu Dhabi Global Healthcare Week between the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, Microsoft, with Mohamed bin Zayed Al University (MBZAIU), Amazon Web Services, Core42, and Masdar City.



**L to R:** Jens Dommel, Head of Healthcare EMEA, Amazon Web Services, Ahmed Baghoum - CEO of Masdar city, Elena Bonfiglioli - Global Business Leader, GM Healthcare, Pharma and Life Sciences, Microsoft, H.E. Mansoor Ibrahim Al Mansoori, Chairman of Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, Sultan Al Hajji - Vice President of Public Affairs and Alumni Relations at MBZUAI, H.E. Dr. Noura Al Ghaithi, Undersecretary of the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, Kiril Evtimov, Chief Executive Officer, Core 42

# 8. Next Steps

## Global Accelerator for Digital Health PPPs

### Public Private Partnerships

#### Overview

This initiative involves establishment of a centre of excellence for research, training and advisory on a global public-private collaboration within the domain of digital health.

#### Objective

The purpose of the Accelerator will be to elevate the global healthcare landscape by:

- Facilitating knowledge sharing via a central forum for exchanging insights and best practices in digital health between international stakeholders
- Accelerating transformation in healthcare by driving the adoption of digital technologies across global healthcare systems
- Facilitating collaborative innovation in digital health by engaging governments, technology firms, healthcare providers, and academia

#### Next Steps

Engage a key international player to participate in the Global Accelerator, such as Synapse (Singapore).

## International Consortium for Genomic Data

### Technology, AI & Innovation

#### Overview

An initiative focused on ethical real-world data use, and sharing of genomic and precision medicine data to advance research.

#### Objective

The Consortium will aim to:

- Increase Arab representation within health data
- Encourage collaboration between Arab nations with genome programs in place

#### Next Steps

Official letters had been shared with potential Arab genome programs inviting them to participate in the consortium from KSA, Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco.

We currently await their response to secure their commitment with the Consortium.



**For more information:**

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