



Global Digital Health: Project week with Research Alumni on interdisciplinary challenges from international perspectives

20 – 26 November 2025
in Cologne and Heidelberg

The Project Week "Global Digital Health – Interdisciplinary Challenges from International Perspectives" is a collaborative initiative bringing together international Research Alumni and local researchers from 6 German partner institutions – DKFZ, KIT, Universities of Cologne, Münster, Siegen and Heidelberg University – from 20 to 26 November 2025 in Cologne and Heidelberg. The project week focuses on addressing the societal, developmental, and global relevance of digital advancements in disease prevention, diagnostics, medical care and therapy, bio medical informatics, ageing research as well as health policies and health education, alongside their challenges and opportunities from a global perspective.

The project aims to engage researchers from various disciplines and expertise areas, focusing on interdisciplinary dialogue and leveraging the diverse competencies of international alumni to discuss the development of global digital health and the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

The interdisciplinary and international perspectives are seen as key to identify open questions and challenges in scientific discussions, with contributions from the partner institutions serving as a catalyst.

Besides those actively involved in the programme, **all other interested researchers are invited to participate in this open programme for the entire project week. Please register here: <https://indico.dkfz.de/e/DigitalHealth>**

PROGRAMME

Subject to changes

Note: Contributors are listed in alphabetical order by name in the respective session.

Project partners: DKFZ, KIT, Universities of Cologne, Münster, Siegen, Heidelberg University

Supported by the DAAD with funds from the Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation and Development and the
Federal Foreign Office



THURSDAY, 20 NOV 2025 – UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

International House (Building 174), Kringsweg 6, Meeting Room

<https://maps.uni-koeln.de/>

GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH – APPROACHES TO DIGITALISATION

9.30 a.m. **Welcome in Cologne**

Kick-Off Global Digital Health

9.45 a.m. **Welcome Talk**

Communal Digital Health? Or: How Digital Technologies Keep People with Dementia Connected

Erik Norman Dzwiza-Ohlsen, Research Assistant, Cologne Center for Ethics, Rights, Economics and Social Sciences of Health, University of Cologne

10.15 a.m. **Speed Dating**

Introduction of Experts, Research Alumni and Scientific Partners

Hosted by Christoph Strünck

Professor of Social Science, University of Siegen

11.45 p.m. **Brown Bag Session**

Funding Opportunities for Research Stays in Germany.

Information Session with Experts on Funding Opportunities

Theresa Strohe and Clarissa Rademacher, DAAD, together with Oliver Kaas, International Office, KIT Karlsruhe

1.15 p.m. **LUNCH BREAK**

2.00 p.m. **Identification of Topics and Questions**

World Café

Application Fields of Innovative Technologies

> Society & Health Economics

> Data & Ethics

> Technology & Prevention

> Diagnostics & Therapies

Hosted by Christoph Strünck

4.00 p.m. **Poster Session**

Presentation of Research Fields from the participating **Research Alumni** of all Project Partners, DKFZ, KIT, Universities of Cologne, Münster, Siegen and Heidelberg University.

6.30 p.m. **Welcome Evening**

Public Lecture

Venue: Main Building (Building 100), Albertus-Magnus-Platz, Lecture Hall XVII
<https://maps.uni-koeln.de/>

**Challenges and Perspectives in Global Digital Health –
Focus on Healthy Ageing**

*M. Cristina Polidori, Professor of Ageing Clinical Research, Dept. II of Internal Medicine,
University Hospital of Cologne and Excellence Cluster CECAD, University of Cologne*

Followed by joint dinner

FRIDAY, 21 NOV 2025 – UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

Seminar Building (Building 106), Universitätsstraße 37, Meeting Room

<https://maps.uni-koeln.de/>

SOCIETY & HEALTH ECONOMICS

9.00 a.m. **Opening Talk**

Digital Health and the Coordination of Healthcare and Long-Term Care
in International Comparison

Claus Wendt, Professor of Sociology of Health and Healthcare Systems, University of Siegen

9.15 a.m. **Ageing Society**

Impulse Talks & Panel Discussion

Researching Physical Activity in Old Age: Challenges, Advances, Lessons

*Michael Brach, Adjunct Professor, Active Aging Lab, Department of Human Movement Science,
Institute of Sports and Exercise Sciences, University of Münster*

Smartphone-Based Ecological Momentary Assessments in Health Research

Tiia Kekäläinen, Senior Researcher at Laurea AMK, Finland, ALUMN University of Münster

Digital Technologies and Ageing Society

*Claudia Müller, Professor of Information Systems, IT for the Ageing Society,
University of Siegen*

EU-Japan Virtual Coach for Smart Ageing. e-VITA-Project

*Rainer Wieching, Assoc. Professor of Business Information Systems, Research Group
on Robotics in Elderly Care, University of Siegen*

Hosted by Claus Wendt

10.30 a.m. **ACTIVE BREAK**

Hosted by by Jule Pritschow

UniSport, University of Cologne

11.00 a.m. **Societal & Economical Aspects**

Impulse to Fishbowl-Discussion

Invisible Barriers: Tackling Health Disparities in Deprived Urban Areas
in Germany

*Eva-Maria Wild, Professor of Health Services Research and Health Economics,
University of Siegen*

11.15 a.m. **Fishbowl-Discussion**

E-Learning and Blended Learning in Medical Education: Challenges and Benefits in Sub-Saharan Africa

*Lamees Elhassan, Public-Private Partnership Officer at Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health, Morocco, **ALUMN** Heidelberg University*

Discourse Analysis of Care Service Websites

Elifcan Celebi, Assist. Professor, School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin, Ireland

Gender Equity in Global Digital Health: Interdisciplinary Challenges in the Tanzanian Context

*Lily Makalanga, Lecturer and Researcher at University of Dodoma, Tanzania, **ALUMN** University of Cologne*

Shortage of Medical Specialist in Ghana: Selected Government Hospitals

*Efua Mantey Agyire-Tettey, Lecturer at the Department of Social Work, University of Ghana, **ALUMN** University of Siegen*

12.30 p.m. **LUNCH BREAK**

2.00 p.m. **Digital Wellbeing**

Tridem-Talk

*Sigrún Ólafsdóttir, Professor at School of Social Sciences, University of Iceland, **ALUMN** University of Siegen*

*Cecília Tusa Stéger, Researcher & life coach at Stéger Consulting Ltd., Hungary, **ALUMN** University of Cologne*

Ragna Winniewski, a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities, University of Cologne

Hosted by Erik Norman Dzwiza-Ohlsen

3.15 p.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

3.45 p.m. **Lab-Tour at the University of Cologne**

Cologne Excellence Cluster on Aging and Aging-Associated Diseases (CECAD) & Max Planck Institute for Biology of Ageing (MPI-AGE)

> Imaging Facility CECAD (Astrid Schauss)

> Lipidomics/Metabolomics Facility CECAD (Susanne Brodesser)

> Proteomics Facility MPI AGE (Thomas Colby)

5.30 p.m. **End of Lab-Tour**

7.00 p.m. **Joint dinner. Hellers Brauhaus, Cologne**

SATURDAY, 22 NOV 2025 – UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

International House (Building 174), Kringsweg 6, Meeting Room

<https://maps.uni-koeln.de/>

DATA & ETHICS

10.00 a.m. **Legal & Ethical Aspects**

Keynote

The Data Rush of '25 – Gold Panning the 21st Century

Christian Juhra, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Münster, Head of the Staff Unit "Office for eHealth" and Permanent Representative of the Medical Director in the Use & Access Committee at the University Hospital Münster

10.30 a.m. **Impulse Talks followed by Panel Discussion**

Assessment of Transhumanism and Neuralink in the Context of the European Law System

*Yasin Aydođdu, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Turkey, **ALUMN** University of Cologne*

Legality of AI and other Digital Technologies. Tools in Treatment and Prevention

Christoph Jansen, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute for Medical Law, University of Cologne

ChatGPT as a Moral Advisor in the Generation of Ethical Principles for Global Health Policy

*Carlos Rosas, PhD candidate in Global Health at McMaster University, Canada, **ALUMN** Heidelberg University*

Electric Friends: Interaction with Artificial Humans

Kai Vogeley, Professor of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Dept of Psychiatry and Head of the Social Cognition Working Group at the University Hospital Cologne and the Research Center Juelich; Cologne Center for Ethics, Rights, Economics and Social Sciences of Health, University of Cologne

Sustainability under Uncertainty – Digital Health in View of Human Rights

Timo Weiß, Research Associate, RG MedGov, BioQuant and Faculty of Law, Heidelberg University

Global Governance of Digital Health or Medical Care from Public Law Perspectives

*Satoshi Yamada, Professor of Law at Kyoto University, Japan, **ALUMN** Heidelberg University*

11.30 a.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

11.45 a.m. **Panel Discussion**

12.30 p.m. **LUNCH BREAK**

2.00 p.m. **BioMedical Informatics & Transfer**

Focus: BioMedical Informatics

Presentations followed by Q&A

Surrogate Models as Tools for Inference on Gene Regulatory Networks

Fernando Buarque de Lima Neto, Senior Associate Professor and AI Research Head at University of Pernambuco Brazil, ALUMN University of Münster

Data-driven Public Health Policies: Lessons from Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases

Daniel Villela, Professor in the Graduate Programme of Epidemiology at Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), Brazil – currently holder of the CAPES Brazil Chair at the University of Münster

2.30 p.m. **COFFEE BREAK**

2.45 p.m. Focus: Transfer

Presentations followed by Panel Discussions

Adaptive AI Movement Analysis for Individualized Mobility and Balance Training in Older Adults – The MyProEye Concept

Claudia Malek, Siavash Gheshlaghi et al., MyProEye, Gateway, Exzellenz Start-up Center, University of Cologne

Entrepreneurship in Digital Health

Dorothea Kaufmann, Digital Health Entrepreneur and Founder of telmednet

Community Health & Rehabilitation

Ron Walker, Clinical Professor of Athletic Training, University of Tulsa, USA

Hosted by Christoph Strünck

3.30 p.m. **Interim Conclusion & Wrap-Up in Cologne**

Hosted by Christoph Strünck and the Project Team

4.00 p.m. **END OF THE DAY'S PROGRAMME**

Evening in Cologne at own leisure

SUNDAY, 23 NOV 2025

TRANSFER DAY COLOGNE – HEIDELBERG

- 9.15 a.m. **Meeting for departure in Cologne**
Bus stop Gereonstraße
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/oEWQuk9zCFJK8hky7>
Address for navigation devices: Gereonstraße 16, 50670 Cologne, Germany
<https://www.stadt-koeln.de/artikel/68990/index.html>
- 9.30 a.m. Departure to Heidelberg
- 1.00 p.m. **Arrival at B&B Hotel, Heidelberg**
Rudolf-Diesel-Straße 7, 69115 Heidelberg
> Leave suitcase and possibility to get a snack lunch at Akams <https://akams-heidelberg.de/>
or
> Private transfer to other hotel and arrival at Meeting point Neckarmünzplatz at 2.30 p.m.
- 2.00 p.m. **Transfer with the coach into town**
Meeting point Neckarmünzplatz at 2.30 p.m.
- 2.30 p.m. **Old Town and Castle Tour, Heidelberg** (about 2 h)
Meeting point Neckarmünzplatz at 2.30 p.m.
- 5.00 p.m. **Joint Dinner. Vetter's Brauhaus, Heidelberg**
- 7.00 p.m. Return to hotels with public bus (Bus 33 to B&B Hotel)

MONDAY, 24 NOV 2025 – DKFZ HEIDELBERG

DKFZ Communication Center

<https://www.dkfz.de/en/about-us/who-we-are/your-way-to-us>

TECHNOLOGY & PREVENTION

9.00 a.m. **Welcome in Heidelberg**

9.30 a.m. **Poster Slam**

10.30 a.m. **Different Applications of AI in Diagnosis and Prevention**

Insights in Short Sequences

Presentations by the Pecha Kucha method followed by discussion

Micro- and Nanolasers for Sensing and Bioimaging

*Soraya Caixeiro, Tenure track PI, University of Bath, UK, **ALUMN** University of Cologne*

A Digital Intervention to Increase Social Participation, Physical Activity and Health Awareness in Community-dwelling Older Adults – the SMART-AGE Randomized Controlled Intervention Trial.

Tobias Eckert, Postdoctoral Researcher, Geriatric Centre, Heidelberg University Hospital

Digital Health and AI in Biomedical Research: Approaches for Aging, Metabolism, and Mental Health

*Oleh Lushchak, Assoc. Professor at Precarpathian University, Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Ukraine, **ALUMN** DKFZ Heidelberg*

Harnessing AI for Mitigating Male Loneliness: Promises, Challenges, and Global Perspectives

*Felipe Mejia-Medina, Founder and Consultant at EKO Consultancy, Colombia, **ALUMN** Heidelberg University*

Microservices Software for Automatic Glaucoma Diagnosis on Fundus Images

*Saúl Tovar Arriaga, Professor at Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro, Faculty of Engineering, Mexico, **ALUMN** University of Siegen*

Skin Classification & Skin Cancer Prevention App

Christoph Wies, Titus Brinker Lab Digital Prevention, Diagnostics and Therapy Guidance, DKFZ Heidelberg

Hosted by Christian Weber

PhD Scientist in Medical Informatics, University of Siegen

12.00 p.m. **Demonstration of Applications and Networking**

12.30 p.m. **LUNCH BREAK**

2.00 p.m. **Environmental Factors and Climate Change Related to Human Health**

Round Table on Stage

Short personal statement followed by panel discussion

The Role of Human Aging in Linking Environmental Exposures and Brain Health

Xu Gao, Asst. Professor in the School of Public Health at Peking University, China,

ALUMN DKFZ Heidelberg

Health Relevant Effects of Climate Change on Accessibility and Walkability

Sven Lautenbach, Apl. Professor for Geoinformatics, Heidelberg University, Chief Scientist,

Heidelberg Institute for Geoinformation Technology (HeiGIT gGmbH)

Climate Change and Health, Urban Heat Island, Air Pollution and Extreme Weather Effects on the Human Body

Fatemeh Mayvaneh, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University of Münster

Public Perception of Climate Change and Breast Cancer Risk in Nigeria

Aliyu Muhammad, Assoc. Professor of Biomedical Chemistry at Ahmadu Bello University,

Nigeria, ALUMN DKFZ Heidelberg

Vision-Language Model and 3D Visualization for Urban Traffic Noise Analysis

Zhiyong Wang, Assoc. Professor in the Department of Transportation at the School of Civil

Engineering and Transportation, South China University of Technology, China, ALUMN

Heidelberg University

Hosted by Christoph Strünck

3.15 p.m. **COFFEE BREAK and POSTER WALK**

4.00 p.m. **Disease Prevention: From Environmental to Consequential Global Risk Factors**

Fishbowl-Discussion

Incorporating Everyday Needs into Disease Prevention Strategies: A Complex Risk Factor Approach

Alec Cali, Sociologist, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH), Heidelberg University Hospital

Cancer Prevention: Vaccination as Cancer Prevention Strategy (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine – HPV)

Nobila Jean Marc Ouédraogo, Research Scientist, National Cancer Prevention Center, DKFZ Heidelberg

Digitally Optimized Cultivation of Indigenous Spirulina Spp.: A Sustainable Strategy for Global Health

*Maha Rehman, Research Officer, PCSIR - Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan, **ALUMN** KIT Karlsruhe*

Epidemiology of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus in Africa

*Adebayo Shittu, Professor at Obafemi Awolowo University, Department of Microbiology, Nigeria, **ALUMN** University of Münster*

5.30 p.m. **BREAK and NETWORKING**

6.00 p.m. **Health Communication in Social Media**

Public Event

Short, Animated Storytelling for Communicating Health Messages

Merlin Greuel, Alumnus Heidelberg University, Director BioScience Valuation

Hosted by Jennifer Smith

Transfer Manager, Consulting on Knowledge Transfer in Social Sciences, hei_INNOVATION Transfer Agency, Heidelberg University

Followed by joint dinner

TUESDAY, 25 NOV 2025 – DKFZ HEIDELBERG

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<https://www.dkfz.de/en/about-us/who-we-are/your-way-to-us>

DIAGNOSTICS & THERAPIES

9.00 a.m. **Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment with Special Focus on Imaging Tools**

Presentations followed by Q&A

AI-CARE: Tackling Therapy Resistance in Glioblastoma with AI

Carl Herrmann, Professor for Bioinformatics, Institute of Pharmacy and Molecular Biotechnology (IPMB) and Biomedical Genomics, BioQuant, Heidelberg University

Revolutionizing Cancer Care: AI and Informatics for the 6P Oncology Paradigm in the Era of the European Health Data Space (EHDS)

*Rada Hussein, Principal Investigator at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital Health and Prevention, Austria, **ALUMN** DKFZ Heidelberg and Heidelberg University*

Relevance of Practice-Centred Computing for the Design of AI-based Solutions

*Aparecido Fabiano Pinatti de Carvalho, Associate Professor in Interaction Design at the Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, Norway, **ALUMN** University of Siegen*

AI-driven Framework for Automated Cancer Diagnosis and Prognosis in Pakistan

*Hala Rajab, Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology at Peshawar Medical College, Riphah International University Pakistan, **ALUMN** DKFZ Heidelberg*

AI-enabled Spectral Imaging

Alexander Seitel, Deputy Head of Division, Lena Maier-Hein Lab Intelligent Medical Systems, DKFZ Heidelberg

Hosted by Christoph Wies

10.30 a.m. **ACTIVE BREAK**

Hosted by Marisa Müller

Occupational Health Center DKFZ

11.00 a.m. **Theragnostics and Personalized Medicine & Transfer**

Fishbowl-Discussion

AI-supported Decision Making for Emergency Rescue Service Teams & AI-driven Analysis and Interconnection of Textual Medical Knowledge in Doctor's Letters

Christian Weber, PhD Scientist in Medical Informatics, University of Siegen

Promoting and Strengthening Research on Preclinical Preparation of
Theranostics and Target Alpha Radionuclides with AI

*Mohamed Abdo, Professor of Nuclear Chemistry at the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority,
Egypt, **ALUMN** University of Cologne*

Beyond the Algorithm: Turning AI into Clinically Meaningful Digital
Health Tools

*Danielle Jeddah, Director of Clinical Development at Healthy.io, Rambam Health Care Campus,
Israel, **ALUMN** DKFZ Heidelberg*

12.15 p.m. **LUNCH BREAK**

Lunch visit at hei_INNOVATION Startup Hub, Heidelberg University

2.30 p.m. **Lab-Tour around the “Neuenheimer Feld” in Heidelberg
DKFZ & Heidelberg University**

Heidelberg Institute for Geoinformation Technology (HeiGIT)

*Alexander Zipf, Professor and Chair of GIScience (Geoinformatics) at the Heidelberg University,
Scientific Director of the Heidelberg Institute for Geoinformation Technology (HeiGIT gGmbH)*

Heidelberg Ion Beam Therapy Center (HIT), Heidelberg University Hospital

*Amir Abdollahi, Professor and Chair for Translational Radiation Oncology, Managing Director
at the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT), Chief Scientific Officer Heidelberg Ion-Beam
Therapy Center (HIT), Department of Radiation Oncology*

Dieter Morszeck Biorepository, DKFZ Heidelberg

Simone Röhling, Head of Core Facility Dieter Morszeck Biorepository

5.30 p.m. **END OF THE DAY'S PROGRAMME**

Evening in Heidelberg at own leisure

WEDNESDAY, 26 NOV 2025 – DKFZ HEIDELBERG

DKFZ Communication Center

<https://www.dkfz.de/en/about-us/who-we-are/your-way-to-us>

GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH – FROM AI TO HEALTH

9.00 a.m. **AI & Digitalisation in Global Health**

Impulse Talks & Final Panel Discussion

Harnessing AI for Equitable and Climate-Resilient Global Health Systems

Sandra Barteit, Digital Global Health Research Group Leader, Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH), Heidelberg University Hospital

Human-Centred Healthcare AI

*Mark Sujan, Professor of Safety Science at the University of York, UK, **ALUMN** KIT Karlsruhe*

Health in All Policies – Mapping Progress across Europe, Digitalization / Digital Determinants (of Health), and Ethical Considerations

James Kenneth Timmis, PhD Research Associate at the Department of Political Science, University of Freiburg and Christoph Strünck, Professor of Social Science, University of Siegen

Predicting Individual Disease Risks Based on National Health Data

Moritz Gerstung, Professor of Data Science, Division Head for Artificial Intelligence and Cancer Evolution at the DKFZ, Heidelberg

Hosted by Alexander Seitel

10.45 a.m. **BREAK & Poster Voting**

11.00 a.m. **Global Digital Health. Conclusions & Wrap Up**

World Café

Interdisciplinary & international Perspectives and Relevance.

Impulses for Future Cooperation – Opportunities & Connections

Hosted by Christoph Strünck and the Project Team

12.45 p.m. **LUNCH BREAK**

2.00 p.m. **Final Keynote and Discussion**

Public Lecture

Translational Medical Ethics

Eva Winkler, Oncologist and Professor for Translational Medical Ethics (previously Heisenberg-Professorship), at Heidelberg University, Managing Director NCT – National Center for Tumor Diseases – Heidelberg

from 3.00 p.m. **OPEN NETWORKING AND CLOSING**

Goodbye Evening. Christmas Market, Old Town Heidelberg

END OF THE PROJECT WEEK

