



WHA 2026 Satellite Symposium

Smart Healthcare and Health System Innovation

AI-Enabled, People-Centered Integrated Digital Health

Conference Summary Report

Date	Wednesday, 20 May 2026
Time	14:00 – 18:30 (CEST / Geneva Time)
Venue	Campus Biotech · 9 chemin des mines, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland
Scale	400+ participants from over 62 countries
Nature	Official Side Event — 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79)

Organizers

School of Public Health, Fudan University · Shanghai Soft Science Research Base
Zhejiang Urban Governance Studies Center · Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva
Geneva Health Forum · Medi-Bridges EurAsie (Switzerland)

1. Background and Strategic Significance

In May 2026, Geneva — the global center of health diplomacy — once again came into the world's spotlight as the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79) convened, bringing together representatives from 194 WHO member states to deliberate on global health governance, pandemic preparedness, and universal health coverage.

Against this backdrop, the satellite symposium "Smart Healthcare and Health System Innovation: AI-Enabled, People-Centered Integrated Digital Health" was convened on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 — the peak day of WHA79 side event activity — at Campus Biotech Geneva. Co-organized by Fudan University's School of Public Health, the University of Geneva's Institute of Global Health, and Geneva Health Forum, with the support of Medi-Bridges EurAsie, the event carries threefold strategic significance:

- **Academic Dialogue Platform:** Bringing together leading universities, medical institutions, and international organizations from China and Europe for in-depth exchange on AI-enabled health systems;
- **Policy Advocacy Window:** Leveraging the WHA79 international stage to present China's smart healthcare development experience and actionable solutions to global health policymakers;
- **Partnership Deepening:** Advancing institutional cooperation between Chinese and Swiss partners in digital health, medical AI, and health system innovation into a new phase.

2. Opening Remarks

The symposium was moderated by Professor YanYi Xu (Assistant Dean, School of Public Health, Fudan University). Opening remarks were delivered by senior representatives of the World Health Organization, the Canton of Geneva, China's National Health Commission, and the co-organizing institutions — collectively signaling strong multilateral endorsement of the event's agenda.



Sameer Pujari

Technical Officer, Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence
World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters



Louise Agersnap

Director, Innovation Hub
World Health Organization (WHO)

**Antoine Geissbuhler**

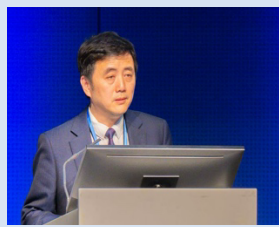
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
University of Geneva

**Beatrice Ferrari**

Director of International Affairs
Canton of Geneva

**Hongming Zhu**

Director, National Health Development Research Center
National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China

**Li Luo**

Secretary, CPC Committee, School of Public Health
Fudan University

**YanYi Xu**

Assistant Dean & Symposium Moderator
School of Public Health, Fudan University

"AI is a challenge and opportunity the world must address collectively — its application in health services should transcend national and regional boundaries. We urgently need robust governance frameworks to guide AI's development for the benefit of humanity, with "people-centeredness" as the inviolable core principle in the field of health." — Li Luo Co-Dean, SPH, Fudan University

3. Keynote Session I: Smart Healthcare in Practice

The first keynote session featured four international speakers sharing frontier research and practical insights on smart healthcare implementation across clinical and community settings, covering large language model applications, people-centered integrated care, internet healthcare and digital health cities in China, and AI-enabled home care services.



Carlos Molina
Director, Stroke Unit
Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona

"Large language models and agentic AI hold promise for connecting every link in the stroke care chain and gaining precious treatment time — but clinical deployment must uphold rigorous validation, privacy protection, and workflow integration as non-negotiable prerequisites." — Carlos Molina Director, Stroke Unit, Vall d'Hebron University Hospital



Hua Jiang
President
Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital of Fudan University

"AI is not a substitute for physicians, but a critical infrastructure supporting continuous, integrated care across the full female life course. The core principle remains, always, people-centeredness." — Hua Jiang President, Obstetrics & Gynecology Hospital of Fudan University



Zheng Pan
Vice President
Health Cloud (Shanghai) Digital Technology Co., Ltd.

"Leveraging a unified platform and AI, Shanghai has built a replicable model for digital health — encompassing online follow-up, one-click prescriptions, AI medical assistants, and a Yangtze River Delta region-wide tiered care system — offering a Chinese reference for the world." — Zheng Pan Vice President, Health Cloud (Shanghai) Digital Technology



Emilia Frangos
 Director General
Geneva Institution for Home Care and Assistance (IMAD)

"Through smart sensors, telemedicine, dynamic monitoring, and AI, we are realizing a new care paradigm of "outpatient and home first, hospital last" — improving continuity, responsiveness, and universal accessibility of home care services." — Emilia Frangos Director General, IMAD Geneva

◆ **Roundtable I: From Point Solutions to Systemic Smart Healthcare Innovation**

Moderated by Chouwen Zhu (President, Shanghai Clinical Research and Trial Center), the roundtable addressed ethical barriers to cross-institutional data sharing, AI in pediatrics, the three bottlenecks to scaling medical AI (data, service, and payment interoperability), and AI-assisted large-scale cancer screening.



Roundtable I — Group Photo · Smart Healthcare: From Point Solutions to Systemic Innovation

Name	Title & Institution Key Contribution
Rong Tao	Vice President, Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital <i>"Cross-institutional data sharing faces ethical barriers that require a solid compliance framework before AI can spread across hospitals."</i>
Dahui Wang	Vice President, Children's Hospital of Fudan University <i>"Maintain AI-assisted decision-making principles; address data silos through shared alliances and tiered platforms."</i>

Junjie Zhang	President, Ant Health Business Group (Alibaba) <i>"Scaling medical AI requires interoperability across data, services, and payments — alongside vertical-specific evaluation standards."</i>
Xiaorong Sun	President, Wuhan Landing Intelligent Medical <i>"AI raises pathologist capacity from 100 to 50,000 slides per day — AI must be simple, low-cost, and accessible, building a service ecosystem rather than showcasing technology."</i>
Chouwen Zhu (Moderator)	President, Shanghai Clinical Research and Trial Center

4. Keynote Session II: AI-Driven Health System Transformation

The second keynote session examined AI-driven transformation of health systems across five dimensions: intelligent public health infrastructure, AI in precision oncology, spatial health and digital health networks, healthcare data governance and trust mechanisms, and China's health credit theory and practice.



Xin Chen

Director

Shanghai Municipal Center for Disease Control and Prevention

"Leveraging big data, knowledge graphs, retrieval-augmented generation, and multi-agent systems, Shanghai CDC has substantially enhanced public health risk identification, intelligent early warning, and targeted intervention — a proven path for intelligent public health infrastructure." — Xin Chen
Director, Shanghai Municipal CDC



Olivier Michielin

Director, Oncology Department

Geneva University Hospitals (HUG)

"AI integrating clinical, multi-omics, digital pathology, and spatial omics data breaks traditional diagnostic limitations — advancing cancer care from one-size-fits-all to individualized treatment, bringing patients genuine new hope." — Olivier Michielin Director of Oncology, Geneva University Hospitals



Nicolas Ray

Director, Institute of Global Health

University of Geneva

"Geospatial data, Earth observation, and AI can optimize healthcare resource distribution, assess equitable "15-minute health circle" coverage, and provide new pathways for balanced global health resource allocation." — Nicolas Ray Director, Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva



Christian Lovis

Head, Medical Informatics Department
Geneva University Hospitals (HUG)

"Clinical AI applications must resolve data fragmentation, security risks, and explainability challenges — building a genuine balance between open sharing and secure governance to establish a robust safety foundation for digital health." — **Christian Lovis** Head, Medical Informatics, Geneva University Hospitals



Tiantian Zhang

Associate Professor, School of Public Health
Fudan University

"By translating individual health responsibility into measurable, incentivizable, and verifiable social assets through health indices and health credit systems, we can align preventive behavior with service payment, insurance incentives, and community services." — **Tiantian Zhang** Associate Professor, SPH, Fudan University

◆ Roundtable II: Challenges and Transformation of Health Systems in the AI Era

Moderated by Chouwen Zhu, the second roundtable explored AI integration in mental health, grassroots AI capacity building, AI-enabled population cohort research, and AI applications in nutritional surveillance.



Roundtable II — Group Photo · Challenges and Transformation of Health Systems in the AI Era

Name	Title & Institution Key Contribution
Gang Wang	Deputy Director, National Center for Mental Health and Psychiatry (NHC) <i>"Smart healthcare must integrate technological intelligence with humanistic wisdom — "treating body and mind" as one is the core of true health."</i>
Olivia Keiser	Professor, Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva <i>"Building internal AI capacity from university to community is essential for trust and for avoiding excessive dependence on external providers."</i>
Zhen Ning	Researcher, Shanghai Municipal CDC <i>"AI is embedded across the full workflow of our 200,000-person cohort study — data integrity and operational transparency must be held in the highest regard."</i>
Jiajie Zang	Researcher, Shanghai Municipal CDC <i>"Our Chinese dish nutrition quality index tool is now deployed in food delivery apps and officially adopted in Shanghai's local standards — AI must serve public health values, not just algorithms."</i>

5. Key Outcomes and Shared Commitments

01 AI-Enabled Integrated Health Systems

Participants reached consensus that AI's core value in healthcare lies in enabling people-centered, integrated care pathways — not isolated technological applications. The field must move from point solutions to systemic, coordinated innovation.

02 Data Governance as the Primary Bottleneck

Ethical barriers to cross-institutional data sharing, lack of interoperability standards, and data security risks are the foremost obstacles to scaling medical AI. Multi-layered governance frameworks spanning technology, law, and ethics are urgently needed.

03 China's Experience as a Global Reference

Shanghai's digital health cities, AI-assisted cancer screening at scale, and internet-based tiered care across the Yangtze River Delta offer replicable, systemic pathways for digital health development globally — particularly for the Global South.

04 Sino-Swiss Collaboration Enters a New Phase

This symposium marks a new chapter in academic cooperation between Fudan University and the University of Geneva's IGH and HUG, with commitments to deepen joint research in medical AI, health data governance, and health system innovation.

05 Tech Platforms Formally Enter Global Health Governance

The substantive participation of Ant Health Business Group (Alibaba) signals a structural evolution: global health governance is transitioning from a government–international organization dyad toward a genuine multi-stakeholder ecosystem that includes major tech platforms.

06 Humanistic Values as the Foundation of Digital Health

Multiple speakers emphasized that smart healthcare development must guard against technocratic tendencies. AI must serve holistic human well-being — the integration of body and mind, and the spirit of compassionate medicine, remain the enduring value foundations of digital health.

6. Looking Forward: Pathways for Continued Collaboration

This symposium's success represents a significant milestone in deepening Sino-Swiss health academic cooperation, laying a solid foundation for a series of future dialogues. Participating institutions reached the following commitments on next steps:

- **Joint Research:** Develop collaborative research programs and talent exchange mechanisms between Fudan University SPH and the University of Geneva's IGH in the areas of medical AI and health data governance;
- **Continuing Policy Dialogue:** Establish a regular Sino-European Smart Healthcare and Health System Innovation bilateral dialogue series, with plans to expand participation scope further in 2027;
- **Knowledge Dissemination:** Compile the symposium's core insights and case studies into a policy brief for submission to the World Health Organization and relevant member state health ministries;

- Global South Empowerment: Prioritize the transfer of mature digital health solutions from China and Europe to developing countries in Africa and Southeast Asia, advancing equitable access to health technology.

7. About the Organizers

◆ School of Public Health, Fudan University

<https://sph.fudan.edu.cn/>

One of China's oldest and most distinguished schools of public health, Fudan University SPH maintains leading programs in medical-engineering integration, preventive medicine, health policy, and global health governance. It is a key platform for China's engagement with international health policy and academic exchange, and a flagship institution in China's contribution to global health.

◆ Institute of Global Health (IGH), University of Geneva

<https://www.unige.ch/medecine/isg/>

Drawing on Geneva's unique ecosystem of international organizations, the IGH brings together world-class researchers committed to advancing global health equity through interdisciplinary research. It holds internationally leading positions in infectious diseases, digital health, and health systems assessment, and serves as a key convener of evidence-based global health policy dialogue.

◆ Geneva Health Forum (GHF)

<https://genevahealthforum.com/>

The Geneva Health Forum is a premier platform for multilateral global health policy dialogue, convening policymakers, academics, international organization representatives, and private sector leaders annually around the world's most pressing health challenges. GHF plays a unique role in building consensus for global health action.

◆ Medi-Bridges EurAsie (Switzerland)

<https://medibridgeseurasie.ch/>

Medi-Bridges EurAsie is a Swiss-based cross-regional bridge institution connecting European and Asian health systems. It is dedicated to facilitating institutional partnerships and strategic alignment between China and Europe in healthcare, digital health, and health policy. At this symposium, Medi-Bridges EurAsie served as a key co-organizer, playing a vital cross-regional coordination role in aligning Sino-Swiss participants and shaping the programme design.

◆ **Shanghai Soft Science Research Base · Zhejiang Urban Governance Studies Center**

<https://yxky.fudan.edu.cn/9f/bb/c46285a696251/page.psp>

<http://www.urbanchina.org/>

These two research institutions focus respectively on science and technology policy and urban governance innovation in China, contributing local government perspectives and evidence-based policy research to the symposium's discourse on digital health governance in Chinese cities.

For More Information

Geneva Health Forum: www.genevahealthforum.org

School of Public Health, Fudan University: sph.fudan.edu.cn

Medi-Bridges EurAsie: medi-bridges.org

© 2026 Geneva Health Forum · Fudan University SPH · University of Geneva IGH · Medi-Bridges EurAsie — All rights reserved