

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

A Decade of **Joining the Dots** Towards Bridging Data Spaces

 3-4 December 2025

 Ghent, Belgium

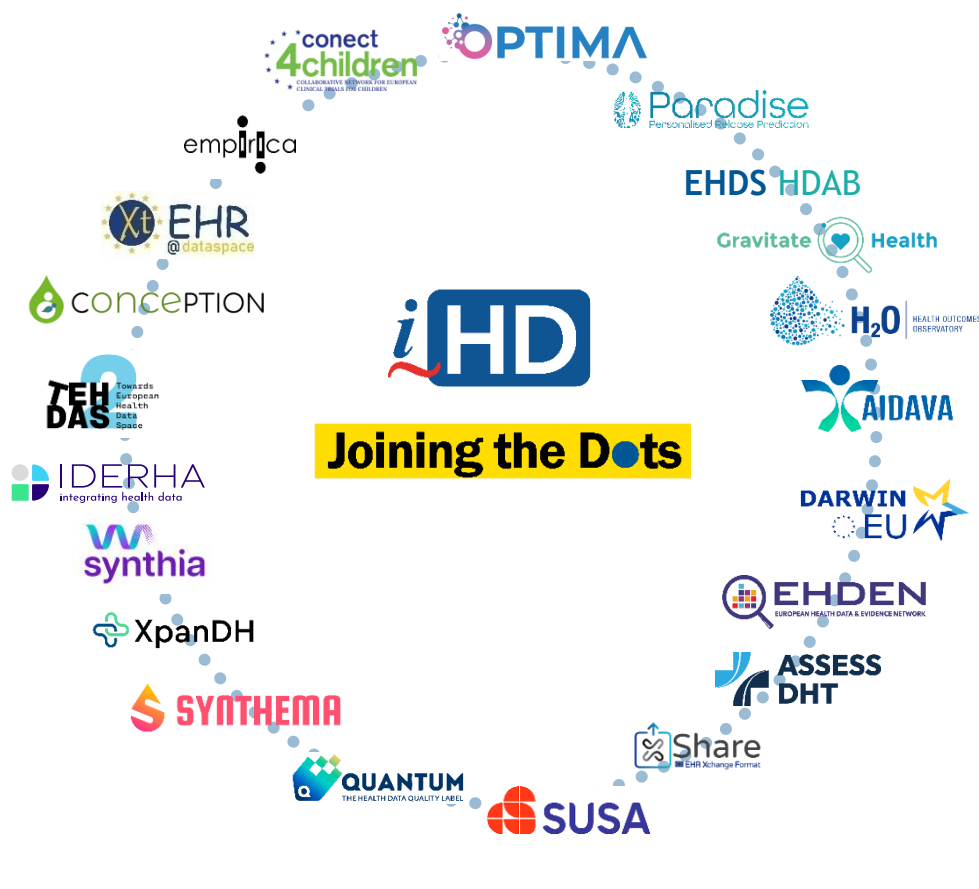
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A Decade of **Joining the Dots** Towards Bridging Data Spaces



This year marks a major milestone for **the European Institute for Innovation through Health Data (iHD)** as we celebrate a decade of advancing trust, innovation, and collaboration in the health data landscape. To honour this occasion, we are hosting a special 10th anniversary edition of our Annual Conference, **“A Decade of Joining the Dots – Towards Bridging Data Spaces”**.

As with previous editions, the conference will feature a series of plenary sessions, including keynotes from leading organisations, EU-funded projects and expert groups, alongside parallel sessions structured around core programme tracks.

This year’s conference promises to be a landmark gathering of policymakers, researchers, clinicians, innovators and patient representatives, all working together to shape the future of health data in Europe, responsibly and inclusively.

A Decade of **Joining the Dots** Towards Bridging Data Spaces

DAY 1 3 December, Wednesday

8:30 – 9:00	Registration & welcome coffee		
9:00 – 9:20	Welcome Welcome by the City of Ghent Welcome by i-HD and reflection on the 10-year journey Dipak Kalra – President Geert Thienpont – CEO Georges De Moor – Founder Veli Stroetmann – Director, empirica Communication and Technology Research Mats Sundgren – Senior Scientific Industry Director		Room: Korenlei
9:20 – 10:40	Plenary Session: Achieving Informed, Equitable and Safe EHDS Opt-outs Chair: Petra Wilson – Information Governance Expert, i-HD Towards a learning healthcare system – balancing data use and data protection in EHDS implementation Nick Schneider – Head of Division 511 - New Technologies and Data Use, German Federal Ministry of Health Panel discussion Gözde Susuzlu Briggs – Senior Programme Manager, European Patients' Forum (EPF) Ole Johan Bakke – President, Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) Aneta Tyszkiewicz – Director, Data Digital, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA)		Room: Korenlei
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee break		Room: Foyer
11:00 – 12:20	Parallel sessions		
	Lessons learnt from data space forerunners Chair: Tieneke Schaaïj-Visser – Partnership Manager, Lygature Room: Poppi Lessons learnt when establishing the IDERHA infrastructure as a forerunner of the EHDS-aligned Secure Processing Environment Christian Muehlendyck – Scientific Partnerships Lead J&J MedTech EMEA, Johnson & Johnson MedTech, IDERHA OPTIMA - Cross cancer, cross-dataset analysis as a blueprint for the EHDS Andreas Kremer – Co-founder and Managing Director, Information Technology for Translational Medicine (ITTM), OPTIMA Enabler and gatekeeper of secondary health data usage – lessons learnt in the Swiss Personalized Health Network for FAIR health data research Julia Maurer – Team Lead Data Governance, Ethical, Legal and Social Implications, Swiss Personalized Health Network (SPHN) Learnings from the H2O project – how patient empowerment can become the catalyst for European competitiveness in life science Meni Styliadou – VP Health Data Partnerships, Takeda, H2O	AI systems need safe drivers: making users competent and confident Chair: Nathan Lea – DPO & Information Governance Lead, i-HD Room: Fortune Building the joint knowledge base - How collaboration can help in educating future users and adopters of AI in healthcare Minna Isomursu – Professor, University of Oulu, SUSA Beyond the hype: Why AI in healthcare needs human drivers Christos Chatzichristos – Postdoctoral Researcher & AI Expert, Flanders AI Academy (VAIA) Building transparency and trust: i-HD's work for HCPs and patients Sofia Palmieri – Healthcare AI Policy and Compliance Officer, i-HD, PARADISE From health data quality to explainability: Representativeness as the fingerprint of AI Jens Declerck – Health Data Quality Manager, i-HD, IDERHA	Creating, sharing and using excellent European EHR exchange format data Chair: Henrique Martins – Associate Professor University Institute of Lisbon Room: Korenlei Yiannos Toliás – Legal Lead on AI and AI Liability in Healthcare, DG Sante, European Commission European EHR Exchange: From format to fitness Zoi Kolitsi – Digital Health Policy and Strategy Lead, i-HD, XpanDH xShare "Yellow" Button: Pushing the envelope for EHDS priority health data categories for actionable person engagement Catherine Chronaki – xShare Project Extended EHR@EU Data Space for primary use Xt-EHR Christos Schizas – Coordinator, National eHealth Authority Cyprus, Xt-EHR
12:20 – 13:30	Lunch break		Room: Foyer

A Decade of **Joining the Dots** Towards Bridging Data Spaces

13:30 – 14:30	<p>Plenary Session: The Vision for Health Data in Research Chair: Georges De Moor – Founder, i-HD</p> <p>Trust, transparency and innovation: the role of public-private partnerships to create multi-stakeholder value from European health data Niklas Blomberg – Executive Director, Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)</p> <p>From patient to planet: digital innovation for a truly sustainable health system Ilias Iakovidis – Adviser on Digital Aspects of Green Transition, DG Communications Networks, Content & Technology, European Commission</p>	Room: Korenlei	
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break	Room: Foyer	
15:00 – 16:30	Parallel sessions		
	<p>Privacy preservation within real and synthetic data spaces. Is synthetic data a silver bullet for data privacy? Chair: Yves Moreau – Full Professor, Catholic University of Leuven Room: Korenlei</p> <p>SYNDAT - A tool for evaluation & visualization of synthetic patient level data Tim Adams – Research Associate and Software Engineer, Fraunhofer Institute for Algorithms and Scientific Computing SCAL, IDERHA</p> <p>Implementing PETs in the Cancer Registry Data Space Gijs Geleijnse – Scientific Coordinator CancerWatch JA, Norwegian Institute of Public Health John Smith – Computational Privacy Researcher, Loughborough University/Privacy Enhancing Technologies Lead, UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology</p> <p>Towards truly privacy-preserving (and useful) medical synthetic data Jean Louis Raisaro – Head of Clinical Data Science Group, CHUV Lausanne University Hospital, SYNTHIA</p> <p>Assessing privacy risks related to synthetic health data generation and use Laura Carmichael – Research Fellow, Digital Health & Biomedical Engineering Group, IT Innovation Centre, University of Southampton, UK, SYNTHEMA</p>	<p>Ensuring the quality and safety of digital health innovations Chair: Zoi Kolitsi – Digital Health Policy and Strategy Lead, i-HD Room: Fortune</p> <p>Harmonising approaches to the assessment of DHTs in Europe: reflections from the ASSESS-DHT and EDiHTA projects Zoe Garrett – Senior Scientific Adviser, UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence</p> <p>Building Europe's digital health tools assessment & evidence backbone Christophe Maes – Business Development & Audit Manager, i-HD, ASSESS-DHT</p> <p>Accelerating innovation in healthcare: The (potential) of regulatory sandboxes Gökhan Ertaylan – Research Lead, Flemish Institute for Technological Research</p> <p>Leveraging digital health tools for Real-World Evidence generation: Insights from a hospital setting Mona Bové – Scientific Associate – Data Management, AZORG</p>	<p>Innovative uses of the health summary in your pocket Chair: Dipak Kalra – President, i-HD Room: Poppi</p> <p>Available health data - resource for personal engagement and safe use of medicines Anne Moen – Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Gravitate-Health</p> <p>Reinventing public health: How can the citizen directly both contribute to and benefit from secondary use of data? Luc Nicolas – Digital Health Facilitator, European Health Telematics Association (EHTEL), xShare</p> <p>Empowering patients through involvement: the multi-layered model of H2O Valentina Strammiello – Interim Executive Director, European Patients' Forum (EPF), H2O</p> <p>Health at our fingertips: what can the EUDI Wallet bring to patient autonomy? Zoltan Lantos – Digital Health Expert, Department of Health, Ireland</p>
18:00 onwards	Social event/Conference dinner	Venue: Historic city centre of Ghent	



Only for ticket holders of social event/conference dinner:

Social event
WHEN: 6:00 – 6:15PM
WHERE: Graslei, outside the restaurant “De Witte Leeuw”, look for the i-HD beach flag
 From the riverside entrance/exit of Ghent Marriott Hotel, turn left and cross the bridge to reach Graslei

Conference dinner
WHEN: 7:15PM
WHERE: Oude Vismijn, enter via bridge from Appelbrugparkje street

A Decade of **Joining the Dots** Towards Bridging Data Spaces

DAY 2 4 December, Thursday

8:30 – 9:00	Registration & welcome coffee		
9:00 – 10:30	Plenary Session: Adoption of AI in Healthcare Chair: Sofia Palmieri – Healthcare AI Policy and Compliance Officer, i-HD Room: Korenlei The Evolving Path to Trust and Readiness: Artificial Intelligence for Health Systems in the WHO European Region David Novillo-Ortiz – Unit Head, Data and Digital Health, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe From Data to Care: Europe's Journey to Deploy Trustworthy AI in Healthcare Yiannos Toliás – Legal Lead on AI and AI Liability in Healthcare, DG Sante, European Commission When Hippocrates met AI: moving fast and doing no harm Eric Sutherland – Senior Health Economist, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Panel discussion Michele Calabrò – Executive Director, European Regional and Local Health Authorities (EUREGHA) Isabelle Dehaene – Obstetrician-Gynaecologist, Ghent University Hospital Pascal Verdonck – Vice-President, Belgian Association of Hospital Managers		
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break Room: Foyer		
11:00 – 12:20	Parallel sessions		
	How will EHDS Health Data Access work? Chair: Petra Wilson – Information Governance Expert, i-HD Room: Korenlei EHDS user journey Markus Kalliola – Programme Director, The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, TEHDAS2 Creating a workable EHDS to transform data into outcomes - industry perspectives from MedTech Europe Verena Thaler – Manager Digital Health-Data Governance & Digital Regulation, MedTech Europe Shaping Health Data Access in Europe: The HDAB community of practice Pero Ivanko – Head of Department of Data Science and Analytics, Croatian Institute of Public Health, EHDS HDAB How will Health Data Access work? Liesbeth Hak – Programme Manager HDAB-NL, ICTU	Real-World Data for clinical research: it's time to scale up! Chair: Mats Sundgren – Senior Industry Scientific Director, i-HD Room: Fortune Transforming drug development with real-world data insights Irena Brookes-Smith – Head of Healthcare Analytics, AstraZeneca Real-World Data for Clinical Research Joe Lengfellner – Senior Director Clinical Research Informatics & Technology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre Real-World Data for Clinical Research: the university hospital view Johan Van Eldere – Secretary-General, European University Hospital Alliance (EUHA) RWD for clinical research: a regulatory perspective Juan Jose Abellan – Biostatistics Senior Specialist, European Medicines Agency (EMA)	Improving the quality of EHR data, for continuity and patient safety Chair: Pascal Coorevits – Professor, Ghent University Room: Poppi Building capacities of Member States for improving the quality of health data Veli Stroetmann – Director, empirica, CapacityHD Before and after: Redesigning the emergency dashboard to align with health providers' need and drive healthcare improvement Camilla De Bleecker – Data Scientist, AZORG Implementing dashboards for monitoring and improving EHR data quality Sonia Priou – Clinical Data Scientist, i-HD Data Quality at individual patient level: why, how, impact Isabelle de Zegher – Founder, bIloba, AIDAVA Remzi Çelebi – Assistant Professor, Maastricht University Institute of Data Science, AIDAVA
12:20 – 13:30	Lunch break Room: Foyer		
13:30 – 14:30	Plenary Session: How to Get Patients Ready to Use AI? Chair: Bleddyn Rees – Director, SMRT Medical Limited Room: Korenlei Elisabetta Gatti – Senior Policy Analyst - Worldwide Government Affairs & Policy EMEA, Johnson & Johnson Tjade Stroband – Director, Artificial Intelligence and Information Integrity Policy, European Government Affairs, Microsoft Putting Patients First in AI Gözde Susuzlu Briggs – Senior Programme Manager, European Patients' Forum (EPF) Ildikó Vajda – Senior Adviser on Digital Care, Dutch Patient Federation		
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break and 10 th anniversary celebration 		

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15:00 – 16:30 Parallel sessions

How to prepare to be an EHDS data holder

Chair: **Nathan Lea** – DPO & Information Governance Lead, i-HD

Room: **Poppi**

Towards labelling datasets quality in Healthdata@EU

Enrique Bernal-Delgado – Senior Data Scientist in Health Services and Policy Research, Aragon Institute of Health Sciences (IACS), QUANTUM

Health dataset catalogues: from guidance to action

Nienke Schutte – Head of Innovation in Health Information Systems, Sciensano

Innovation, intellectual property and the EHDS

Simon Bates – Director of Patent Law, Johnson & Johnson

How to be a good data holder and prepare to share data at scale

Monica Jones – Chief Data Officer, University of Leeds/Associate Director, Health Data Research UK

Generating and trusting Real World Evidence

Chair: **Bart Vannieuwenhuysse** – Strategic Alliances Advisor, i-HD

Room: **Fortune**

The Darwin EU® Experience

Katia Verhamme – Associate Professor Pharma-epidemiology, Erasmus Medical Centre (EMC), DARWIN EU

Data Access Alone Isn't Enough: Crafting Trustworthy RWE in the Most Controversial Domains

Miriam Sturkenboom – Professor and Head of Health Data Science, University Medical Centre Utrecht

If you want to go far, go together

Martine Lewi - Senior Director, Global Commercial Data Science - Data, Platforms and Partnerships, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Use of RWE in regulatory settings

Juan Jose Abellan – Biostatistics Senior Specialist, European Medicines Agency (EMA)

Where next for the European EHR Exchange format?

Chair: **Christos Schizas** – Coordinator, National eHealth Authority Cyprus

Room: **Korenlei**

National Systems, Global Lessons: Elevating Patient Access with Immunisation Data in the EHDS

Tudor Pitulac – Head of Research Projects Division, OpenSky Data Systems

Understanding and addressing the data needs of rare disease and paediatric populations in the EHDS

Victoria Hedley – Rare Disease Policy Manager, Newcastle University

John Owen – Head of Project Management Office, CDISC, **connect4children**

International Patient Summary Plus (IPS+)

Rebecca Baker – Clinical Research Standards Developer and Real World Data Expert, CDISC, IPS+

16:30 – 17:00 Closing session

Room: **Korenlei**

Conference conclusions and action points

Sonia Priou – Clinical Data Scientist, i-HD

Dipak Kalra – President, i-HD

