

## **8th European Conference on Health Law**

Abstract from Dipak Kalra, President, the European Institute for Innovation through Health Data (i~HD)

### **Pressure points between two Teutonic plates: GDPR and big health data research**

The GDPR demands the highest order safeguarding of the data protection rights of individuals, but this can be in tension with the collective rights of society to receive the best, safest and most advanced healthcare. Modern health research often requires large (=multi-controller) patient numbers and longitudinal (= linked), high fidelity (= difficult to anonymise), data for precision medicine, targeted therapies and AI development. Big (= not easy to minimise) data infrastructures (=no single purpose) proliferating across Europe (= multi-country) consistently face the same GDPR pressure points. i~HD's mission is to engage with these big data initiatives. We find a strong desire to uphold the GDPR, to respect data subjects and to collaborate with us on finding the best governance approaches (the lava between the plates). This presentation will put the case for scaling up big data research and walk through these pressure points, strategies being piloted and the outstanding challenges.

### **Questions to lead into the panel session**

Is the GDPR in its present form well-optimised for achieving the highest quality of health care?

Could the Data Governance Act offer hope or a false promise for these pressure points?