**PMAC 2025 Side Session Proposals from PATH – Oct 30, 2024**

**Submission #1**

**Host organization:** PATH

**Title**: Digital decision support tools for enabling robust, integrated community health systems.

**Background**: Digital health technologies can have a catalytic impact on health service provision in low resource contexts. Recent evidence points to the importance of prioritizing a technology-enabled community health workforce to strengthen the quality of PHC through rapid feedback, supportive supervision, and availability of real-time data ([Kasper et al., 2023](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37967568/)). However, operationalizing digital tools for frontline workers requires addressing the current low levels of supportive supervision and digital literacy among the community health workforce, and inconsistent internet connectivity in rural areas ([Feroz, Khoja & Saleem, 2021](https://archpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13690-020-00513-z)). This session will explore recent advances to scale digital decision support tools to the community level.

**Objectives**:

* Current state of play: set the stage for the opportunities for extending digital health technologies to the community health level, including AI-enabled digital decision support tools to guide CHWs in carrying out an integrated scope of work.
* Highlight how the use of digital decision support tools can improve quality of care, including spotlighting a few countries where digital transformation is underway (Indonesia, India, Kenya, Vietnam…) to share early lessons
* Discuss challenges and opportunities for scaling, including the importance of strong governance structures, adequate financing, and real-world evidence to drive actions.

**Proposed speaker list**:

* **Moderator**: PATH: Dr. Kimberly Green, Global Director of Primary Health Care
* **USAID/Washington**: Sherri Hass, Senior Digital Health Systems Advisor
* **Ministry of Health**, Indonesia: Ibu Endang *-or-* representative from the Digital Transformation Office (DTO)
* **Community Health Worker**: To be confirmed, ideally working together with the PMAC Secretariat and local partners to identify a CHW in Thailand
* **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**: To be confirmed, Gaurav Bhattacharya or Mobasher Butt, or?
* **PATH Kenya**: Technical advisor working on eCHIS and CHWs

**Room setup preference**: Classroom or Theatre

**Expected number of participants**: 40-60

**Preferred schedule**: Wednesday, January 29 (but flexible!)

**Submission #2**

**Host organization:** PATH

**Title**: From detection to action: the role of artificial intelligence in strengthening primary health care

**Background**:

Primary health care (PHC) is recognized globally as the cornerstone for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Integrating interventions for affordable and efficient primary health care, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) can contribute to saving approximately 60 million lives by 2030 [(WHO, 2023)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/primary-health-care). Furthermore, innovations such as artificial intelligence (AI) enabled digital health technologies are poised to redefine health care delivery by improving accuracy, saving time and cost, reducing workload for doctors, and enhancing population health management [(Alowais et al, 2023)](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10517477/). However, the adoption of AI technologies at the PHC level requires thorough consideration of the use cases, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness vis-à-vis ensuring data safety, privacy, and trust architecture. The session will delve into the scope of AI innovations for better PHC access and learn from some of the successful implementation scenarios such as cancer screening, NCDs continuum-of-care, and community centered mental health service delivery.

**Objectives**:

* Share AI technology advances related to the screening and early detection of cancers, NCDs and their associated complications e.g. diabetic retinopathy, and mental health conditions.
* Unpack the barriers and enablers for facilitating scale-up and adoption of AI technologies at the primary health care level.
* Discuss aspects of safety, quality, security, and cultural sensitivity to keep future readiness of health systems in pace with advancements in AI.

**Speaker list**:

* **Moderator:** Dr. Swati Mahajan, Director – Technology, Innovations, and Health Systems, South Asia, PATH
* **Donor representative:**
  + To be confirmed, BMGF representative *-or-*
  + Deepali Khanna, Vice President - Asia, Rockefeller Foundation *-or-*
  + Dr. Eduardo Banzon, Director - Health Practice Team, Human and Social Development Sectors Office, Asian Development Bank
* **AI technology company/initiative:** Prashant Warier, Co-Founder and CEO, Qure.ai *-or-* Raghu Dharmaraju, CEO, ARTPARK, India
* **Academia:** Dr. Anurag Mairal, Adjunct Professor of Medicine and Director - Global Outreach Programs, Stanford Byers Center for Biodesign, Stanford University *-or-* Jonas Karlström, Associate Professor and Core Lead - Innovation in Global Health, SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute
* **Government representative** from MOH India or Bangladesh

**Room setup preference**: Theatre

**Expected number of participants**: 40-60

**Preferred schedule**: Wednesday, January 29 (but flexible!)