

WS404

**WILL THE HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGIES FROM COVID-19 LEAD TO A
PERMANENT SHIFT IN HOW GLOBAL HEALTHCARE IS DELIVERED?**

| BACKGROUND

COVID-19 is the first pandemic where the rapid deployment of technology solutions became a core component of the race to understand, contain and deliver a potential treatment. Many of these technologies failed, but like past global crises, many will also evolve to play a permanent role in healthcare beyond COVID-19.

In this session, we'll take a high-level look at the technology trends which were developed or matured during the pandemic and how they will likely impact the future of global health over the next decade. The focus will be on four key technologies

1. Vaccines - The global race to produce a COVID-19 vaccine led to innovations at each stage of development. We saw significant advances in mRNA vaccine development, repurposing of AI technology to analyse the complex structure of the virus, huge efficiencies in clinical trial processes, and digital reimagining of the supply chain management. What impact will these technologies have for future vaccine development?

2. Telemedicine - Due to physical distancing and pressures on clinical facilities, telehealth scaled massively during COVID-19 as video consultations became the default for primary and non-urgent care. Government regulations were relaxed and privacy concerns took second priority to clinical need. In low-income countries device and connectivity challenges meant although there wasn't a jump to video there were significant innovations in SMS and telephony services. Will virtual care persist after COVID-19? And can we balance the desire for digital technologies in health against regulation and privacy concerns?

3. Big data and AI - COVID-19 accelerated already rapidly evolving AI technologies and the use of big data. It was an AI algorithm that first recognised an unusual cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan before official sources and then went on to successfully predict 10 out of the first 12 cities to be affected. We saw pivoting of machine learning from outside healthcare to aid track and trace, case diagnosis, outbreak monitoring and also to identify potential treatments. What did we learn about the future roles of AI in health from COVID-19?

4. Social media health misinformation - Effective public health messages on social media were a key factor in the success of some countries, such as Vietnam, in controlling the initial outbreak. More commonly, however, governments struggled to control misinformation. For the first time, the major social networks took joint steps to limit the spread of false information and validate trusted sources. What are the key lessons for governments and industry in the use of this technology for public health? And how do we use social media to build trust during the vaccine rollout?

| OBJECTIVES

By attending this webinar you will

- Hear about real-world examples of how technology-assisted and failed during the COVID response
- Understand how these technologies have scaled, evolved, and adapted during the pandemic
- Learn how these solutions will have a lasting impact on global health delivery and how they will continue to evolve
- Have the opportunity to ask technology experts for their opinions on whether these technologies will lead to a permanent shift in how global healthcare is delivered



Speaker

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Ambassador Amandeep Gill is Senior Fellow & Project Director of the International Digital Health & AI Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) at the Graduate Institute for International & Development Studies, Geneva, where he also teaches two interdisciplinary Masters' courses on International Learning and on Technology, Security, Politics and Norms.

Amandeep Gill was Executive Director and co-Lead of the Secretariat of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation until August 2019. He previously served as India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Ambassador Gill joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1992 and has served at the Indian Missions in Tehran, Colombo, and Geneva. From 2013-2016, he served as Head of the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division in the Ministry of External Affairs. In 2017, he helped set up the National Task Force on AI for India's Economic Transformation. Ambassador Gill chaired the Group of Governmental Experts of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems from 2017-2018. He has served on the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters and on WEF's Global Futures Council on Values, Ethics, and Innovation; currently he serves as a member of the GFC on Global Public Goods and as a Commissioner on the Lancet/FT Commission on 'Governing health futures 2030: growing up in a digital world'. Ambassador Gill has a B Tech in electronics and electrical communications from Panjab University, Chandigarh and an Advanced Diploma in French History and Language from Geneva University. His PhD degree from King's College London is on Nuclear Learning in Multilateral Forums.