

CONEDIG:

A Roadmap to the Future of
Digital Health Education

Outline

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Outline

- Title: **Strategic development of Consortium of Educational Institutions in Digital Health (CONEDIG)**
 - Status of the initiative;
 - Expectations of the consortium;
 - The roadmap of activities.
- Authors: Simone Farah, Alexandra Monteiro, Adolfo Sparenberg, Georgi Chaltikyan, Valery Stolyar, Dominique Breilh, Yulia Gushchina, Maurice Mars, Frank Lievens, Mickael Chaleuil, Fara Aninha Fernandes

Digital Health Education

Status of digital technology for healthcare services:

- How digital technology for health services has revolutionized and is integral to the healthcare system;
- Access to the internet, development of smart devices, 'tech savvy' generation;
- Digital health technology to reduce costs and tailor healthcare to the needs of a person;
- Government initiatives to include digital health into health systems.

Digital Health Education

- **Digital health field:** A unique blend of the knowledge of medicine and information technology;

- **Branch of Informatics:**

Subjects include: health informatics, medical informatics, clinical health informatics and public health informatics

Content of subjects:

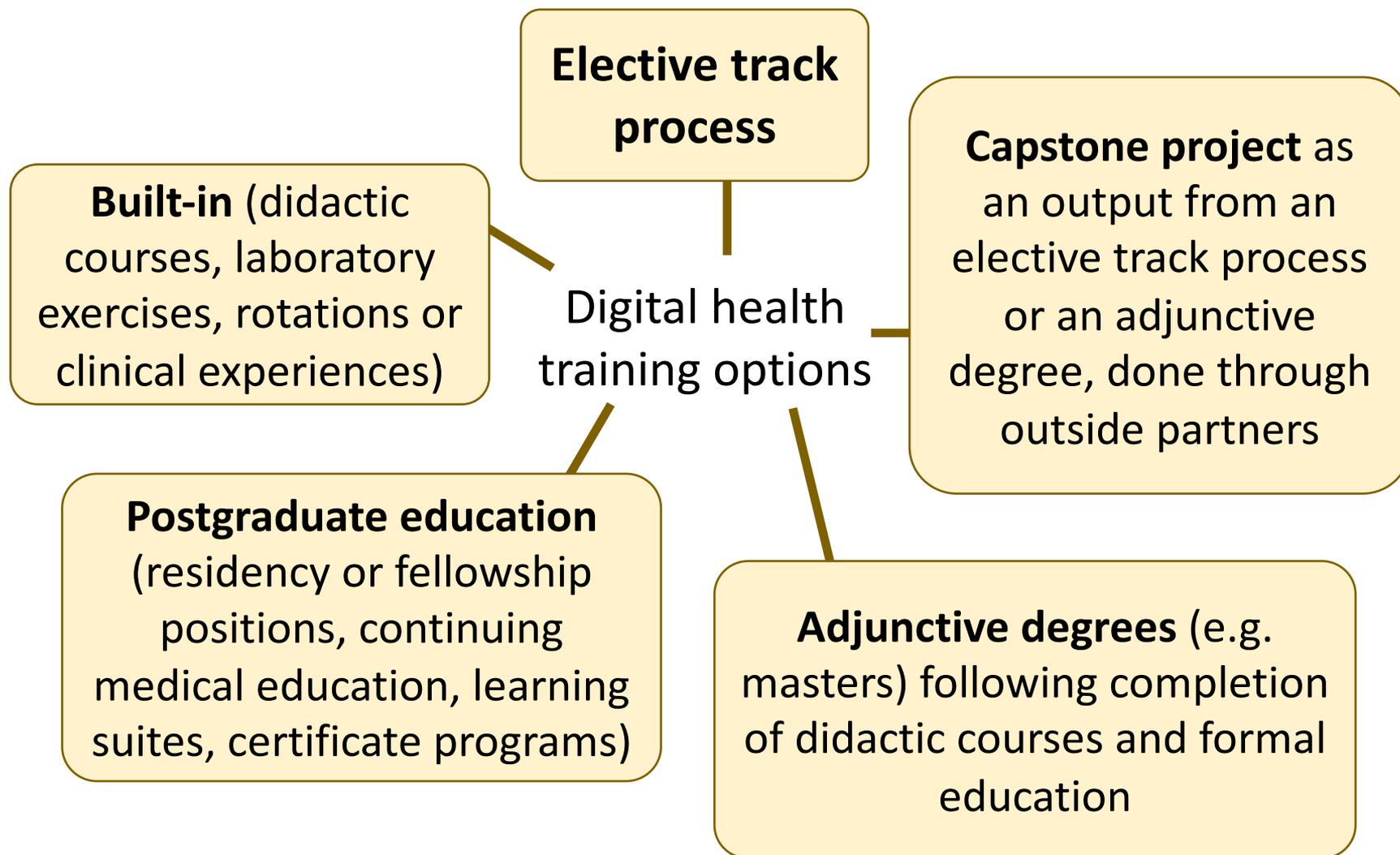
- Delivery of digital healthcare, use of mobile medical applications, digital therapeutics, telehealth, wearable devices, sensors and digital biomarkers;
- Evaluate digital tools and systems with regard to data protection, regulatory frameworks and ethics.

Digital Health Education

Mosch et al (2019) indicate an urgent need for digital health literacy and skills among health professionals

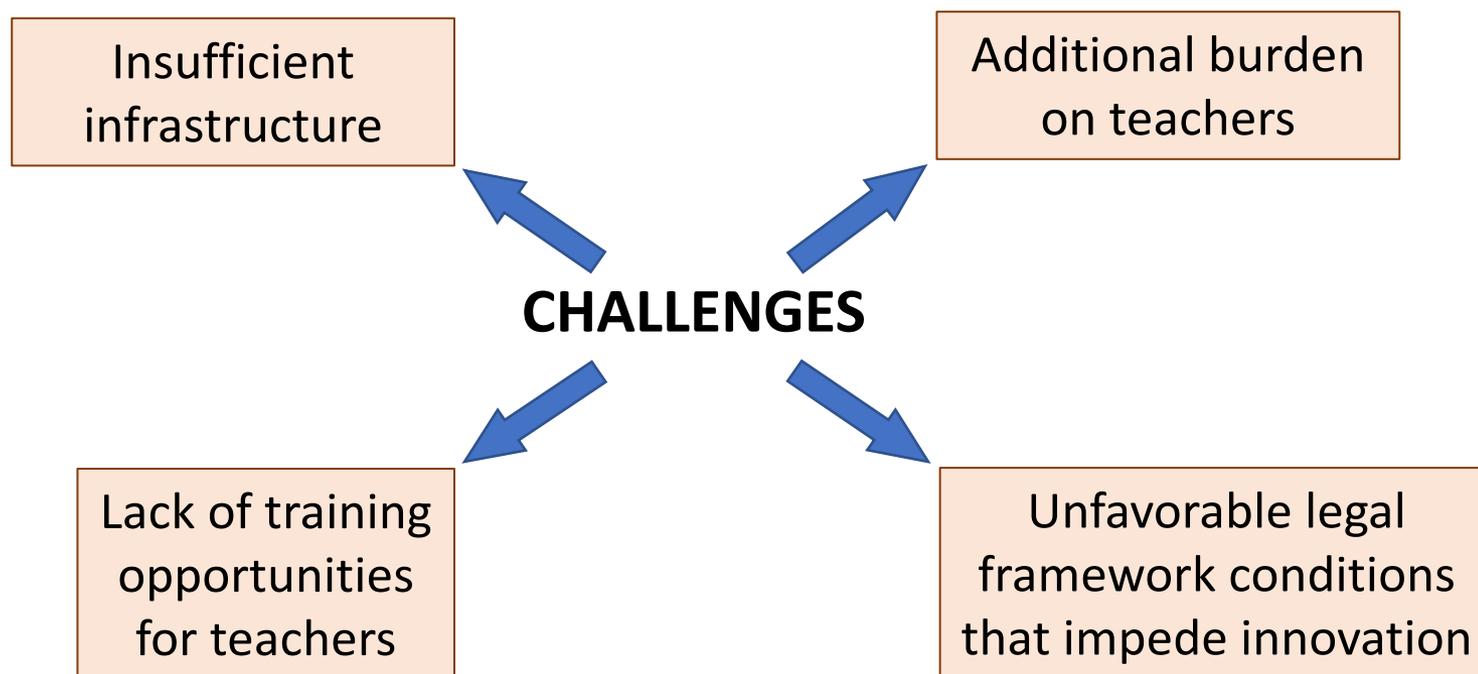
- Defined a gap between the overall willingness of students to become key players in a meaningful digitisation of healthcare and the competencies and skills that are acquired during their courses
- ***Need for formal education in digital health***

Digital Health Education



Digital Health Education

- Haag M et al (2018) cite the **challenges in adapting university teaching** of digital health technology:



Digital Health Education

- Timothy Dy Aungst and Ravi Patel (2020):

Lack of digital health experts with backgrounds in education

Foster relationships between ongoing educational programs

Promote exchange of knowledge, ideas, experiences and best practices

Use virtual teaching methods

International outreach program on digital health

Creation of new organizations or societies

Brief history of initiative

In November 2019, the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth (*ISfTeH*)

- Develop educational programs in digital health with a view to contribute to a controlled and efficient growth of ‘Global Digital Health Education’ (GDHE);
- Need to setup a “Consortium” of “Educational Institutions”
- Unite academic institutions with an interest in GDHE – to continuously explore, analyze and disseminate existing benchmarks and best practices in GDHE

A **working group of common interests** was created under the title “Consortium of Educational Institutions in Digital Health” **“CONEDIG”**

Brief history of initiative

- **Independent body** operating on a **not-for-profit basis** under the ISfTeH;
- Aim of **consolidating digital health education** for initial training and continuous training;
- **Creation of a set of education programs** for digital health and the **evaluation of existing programs** in digital health;
- **Ownership of a common lexicon** in digital health.

CONEDIG's purpose is to assist the Consortium's partners to **coordinate their programs around GDHE issues** (including Telemedicine, eHealth, Mobile Health, Medical Informatics, Bio-Medical Engineering, etc.) such as **teaching, research & development as well as practical applications** in view of initial graduation and post-graduation.

Vision, mission, activities

1

Develop 'a la carte' training courses in digital health

2

Create an evaluation and accreditation framework for digital health programs

3

Inform societies, invite students to participate in study programs

Vision, mission, activities

CONEDIG will adopt the following:

Academic activities:

- Support / create a framework of developing new and updating existing curricula in digital health;
- Support / create a framework of evaluation or accreditation of study programs in digital health;
- Support / create generic modular study courses on various topics in digital health

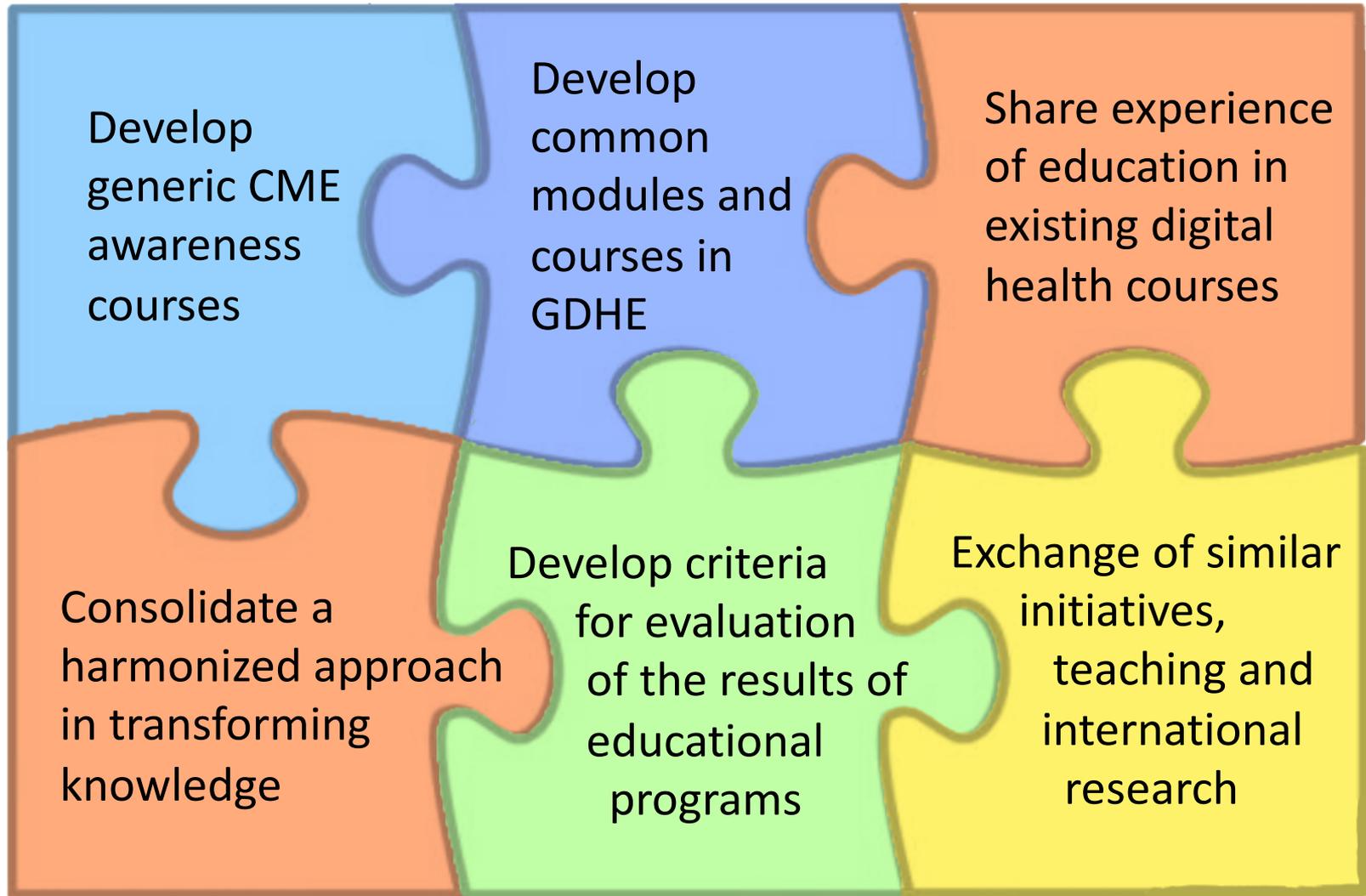
Develop guidelines, recommendations of good international practices in digital health

Partner institutions

- Five founding members:
 - Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) Rio de Janeiro State University, Brazil
 - Université de Bordeaux, France
 - Deggendorf Institute of Technology, European Campus Rottal-Inn (DIT-ECRI), Germany
 - Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN), Russian Federation
 - University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN), South Africa

Partnership will expand and sustain the use of telemedicine and digital health in member countries and other countries

Partner institutions



Goal and Objectives

Goals of CONEDIG:

1. To stimulate a collaboration between educational institutions delivering programs in digital health
 2. To explore and benchmark existing synergies in the field
 3. To come up with further development possibilities of the programs
 4. To define career opportunities
 5. To develop a common promotional campaign
- ✓ Conduct regular meetings to discuss the goals, best practices, international cooperation, setup annual workshops

Expectations of the Consortium

1
Recognition of
the necessity to
approach the
health needs of
each country

2
Participation and
collaboration in
international
research

3
Train and qualify
people to work in
GDHE around the
world

4
Global meeting place of
academics in the digital health
field with experts sharing
knowledge, expertise, content and
personnel for education and
research

5
Creation of an
international
teaching network

Expected Activities, Deliverables

Short-term goals:

Development, provision and promotion of:

- Joint ad hoc courses
- Qualifications and project applications (e.g. CME, CPD)

As e-learning activities in practical training

Development of internationally acceptable basic introductory, awareness courses

Consortium in concert with member institutions
Courses that are not country and legislation specific

Preparation of a register of qualifications, courses, modules and their content
Evidence that the consortium is functional

Expected Activities, Deliverables

Short-term goals:

Assistance to medical

institutions to:

Implement
telemedicine as a
discipline (subject)
in their curriculum

Training and support of:

- Health care professionals
- Medical students (undergraduate postgraduate)

In digital health education to deliver improved patient care

Sharing and exchange of digital health personnel to:

Teach and
instruct courses
in member
institutions

Expected Activities, Deliverables

Short-term goals:

Finding and securing

- Funding
- Sponsorship
- Partnerships

Increase membership:

Inclusion of 33% of ISfTeH institutional members

Attracting member institutions from:

Countries that are not ISfTeH national members

Expected Activities, Deliverables

Medium-term goals:

Increase:

- Global influence
- Provide leadership
- Support all those involved in digital health

Expand the consortium

To include institutions from 66% of the ISfTeH institutional members

Create an association

on the lines of an 'Accreditation Commission of Education Institutions in Digital Health'

Expected Activities, Deliverables

Medium-term goals:

**Advance
evaluation of best
practices**

&

**Scaling up
creation and
dissemination of
ad hoc study
courses**

**Promote
standards in
digital health**

**Award of joint
qualifications**

along with ongoing
joint research
applications and
successful
completion of joint
research programs

Expected Activities, Deliverables

Long-term goals:

Consolidate what has been implemented in the short and medium term

Consortium is recognized and visible in the field of training and the use of digital health

Funding and Sustainability:

- Initial working budget
- Close links should be fostered with the industry

Conclusion

- For the successful implementation and incorporation of digital health technology into the healthcare system, it is **imperative that an association that reflects the formal education of digital health** is created;
- As a consortium of educational institutions in digital health, **CONEDIG will serve as a global platform for advancing digital health** as well as telemedicine education;
- Integral to this idea involves the **sharing of expertise** for joint educational and research projects;
- *With the resources of experience, enthusiasm, existing courses and infrastructure that the founding institutions can provide, **CONEDIG will be an indispensable tool in GDHE.***

Thank you