



Executive Summary & Highlights of the 2024 Summit

On behalf of the Executive Sponsors and Organizing Committee, we thank everyone who joined us in Seattle for the **Future of AI & the Health Sciences Summit** on August 26, 2024. From thought-provoking discussions to the exchange of innovative ideas and insights from experts across the field, we explored how AI can revolutionize public health and engaged around potential next steps ahead.

For those unable to attend our 2024 Summit, we invite you to visit [our Summit webpage](#) to watch session recordings and [view the Summit agenda](#) to learn who served as our keynote speakers and expert panelists at the event.

Morning Welcome & Kickoff

Washington State Secretary of Health Dr. Umair A. Shah and University of Washington School of Public Health Dean Hilary Godwin set the stage with an energizing kickoff that reminded us all of why we're here: to harness the power of AI to make a real difference in public health. Dr. Shah emphasized the importance of collaboration, stating, *"Cross-sector collaboration isn't just a buzzword—it's our lifeline to innovation and resilience in public health."* Dean Godwin echoed this sentiment, adding, *"The future of public health depends on our ability to innovate together—AI is the tool that can help us bridge gaps and build healthier communities."* Their call for cross-sector collaboration resonated throughout the day, reminding us about the power of partnerships.

Morning Keynote by Jonathan Carlson, PhD, Managing Director, Health Futures, Microsoft

Dr. Carlson took us on a journey into the world of general AI in biomedicine. He brought home the importance of ethical AI development, especially in healthcare. His message was clear: *"AI is here to help us, not replace us,"* he stated, adding that *"with the right guidance, it can be a powerful ally in improving patient outcomes."* His insights left us all thinking about how we can guide AI to serve humanity's best interests.

Panel 1 – Practical Applications of AI in Population Health

This panel was all about getting down to business—how can AI actually help us in the real world? From tackling health disparities to improving population health outcomes, the conversation focused on keeping AI human-centered. The takeaway? *“AI should be a tool that enhances, not overshadows, the expertise of our healthcare heroes,”* one panelist remarked, highlighting the need to support, rather than supplant, the human touch in healthcare.

Lunch Keynote with Brian Anderson, MD, Chief Executive Officer, Coalition for Health AI, and Jorge Calzada, MBA, MS, Head of Machine Learning & AI / Director of Platforms Division, CDC

Dr. Brian Anderson and Jorge Calzada kept attendees captivated with their lunchtime keynote, moderated by Dr. Shah. They painted a picture of a future where AI is at the forefront of disease surveillance and emergency response. *“With strong governance and ethical frameworks, AI can be a powerful force for good in public health,”* said Jorge. Brian added, *“We’re not just building tools; we’re building trust and transparency with every algorithm we deploy.”* Their message resonated strongly with themes that surfaced throughout the day.

Panel 2 – Foundations, Tools & Frameworks for AI

The second panel dove into the nuts and bolts of AI in public health. Panelists talked data governance, ethical frameworks, and all the behind-the-scenes work that makes AI effective and trustworthy. It was a reminder that while AI might seem like magic, *“it’s built on solid, carefully crafted foundations,”* as one panelist noted. This session underscored the importance of robust infrastructure in making AI a reliable partner in health initiatives.

Panel 3 – Equity and Ethical Considerations for AI in Health Sciences

Our third panel took on the big questions: How do we ensure AI is fair and just? The discussion highlighted the dual-edged sword of AI—it can either close gaps or widen them, depending on how we use it. The panelists emphasized the need for diverse voices in AI development to ensure that everyone benefits. As one speaker put it, *“AI should be a tool for health equity, not another barrier.”* Another panelist added, *“Inclusion isn’t optional—it’s essential if we want AI to serve all communities, not just the privileged few.”*

Closing Remarks and Summary of the Day

We wrapped up the day with a powerful closing session, reflecting on the wealth of knowledge shared and the exciting opportunities ahead. The closing remarks emphasized the importance of taking what we learned and putting it into action. As one participant summed it up, *“Today was just the beginning. The real work starts now as we turn these ideas into reality and make a tangible impact on public health.”* Another echoed, *“The path forward is clear: collaboration, innovation, and a relentless focus on equity.”*

Key Takeaways: Selected Quotes from Attendees

"The opportunities the Summit provided to connect across sectors was incredibly valuable."

"For me, the greatest takeaway is that AI is present, and we must find appropriate avenues as providers, researchers, administrators and faculty to harness the value it offers while being mindful of its inherent limitations."

"The field is moving rapidly. We need to work together both to leverage AI for opportunities to develop completely new approaches to improve population health and to make sure we are adequately training the public health workforce."

"My biggest takeaway: that AI is revolutionary rather than evolutionary."

Next Steps

- **Stay Connected:** The conversation doesn't end here; let's keep the momentum going. Let's continue to inspire each other and push the boundaries of what AI can do for public health.
- **Future Events:** We'll be hosting more events to dive deeper into AI's role in public health. Whether it's webinars, workshops, or another summit, we look forward to supporting additional opportunities to continue cross-sectoral engagement, learning, and innovations.

University of Washington and Washington State Department of Health Partnership

The 2024 Future of AI & the Health Sciences Summit was made possible through a partnership between the University of Washington and the Washington State Department of Health. Our Organizing Committee co-chairs and Executive Sponsors share appreciation to all involved in the Summit's success.

Executive Sponsors

Les Becker, MBA, Chief of Innovation & Technology, Washington State Department of Health

Hilary Godwin, PhD, Dean and Professor, University of Washington School of Public Health

Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Washington State Secretary of Health

Organizing Committee Co-Chairs

Kris Holiday, MHA, Chief of Partnerships, Washington State Department of Health

Peter Tarczy-Hornoch, MD, Professor & Chair, Department of Biomedical Informatics & Medical Education; Professor Pediatrics (Neonatology); Chief Data Officer, UW Medicine; University of Washington

