



Digital Health Discovery Forum

Reinventing cancer care

About City Cancer Challenge

01

City Cancer Challenge Foundation (C/Can) supports cities around the world as they work to improve access to equitable, quality cancer care. C/Can's approach is built on the core principle that cities can drive impact at a city and national level by crafting data-driven solutions with the support of a network of global, regional, and local partners that reflect an understanding of the unique local context.

02

Leveraging digital health solutions for sustainable cancer care in cities

The extraordinary circumstances stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic are demanding unprecedented resources, adaptability and innovation from health systems across the world. New approaches including digital health solutions and enabling policies that can enhance the coverage, acceptance and quality of health practices and services, are changing

the way cancer care is being delivered and experienced. Moreover, they present new opportunities to move from siloed health and information systems to integrated and resilient health systems. This shift is critical to improving access to quality cancer care and other vital non-communicable diseases (NCDs) services^{1,2}.

Digital health is the convergence of advanced information and communications technologies (ICT) with public health, diagnostics, health service delivery, information dissemination and education through secure digital channels.

From C/Can's perspective, effective digital health solutions can:

- > Enhance data/information sharing and care coordination between different healthcare providers
- > Improve healthcare provider access to patient data and records
- > Train healthcare professionals
- > Tailor patient pathways and resource provision to address specific patient needs
- > Improve two-way communications between patients and healthcare providers
- > Improve the planning and delivery of quality, multidisciplinary cancer diagnosis, treatment and care, and ultimately patient health outcomes³.



"Through a joint collaboration with partners and stakeholders, we will be capturing and documenting insights from health professionals, policy makers and patients to identify and help prioritise digital health innovations, policies and processes that have the potential to transform the future landscape for health and information systems that meets the needs of the people they serve."

Dr Susan Henshall, CEO,
City Cancer Challenge

(1) World Health Organization (2019) *WHO guideline: recommendations on digital interventions for health system strengthening*. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO, p. xi

(2) NCD Alliance (2019) *Realising the promise of digital health for NCDs and UHC: What Is the Opportunity for Civil Society*. Available from: https://ncdalliance.org/sites/default/files/resource_files/DigitalHealthBrief_English_WEB.pdf. (Accessed 7 July 2020)

(3) Koczwara, Bogda et al. (2019) *The Australian Digital Health in Cancer Care Roadmap: A Strategic Framework for Implementation of Digital Health in Cancer Care in Australia*. 10.13140/RG.2.2.22787.25120.

03

Why C/Can?

C/Can is strategically positioned to initiate and facilitate these dialogues based on its on-the-ground experience in cities, multi-sectoral approach, and network of partner organisations. The high-level engagement and commitment to improving quality

cancer care that C/Can has fostered among city and country policy makers, healthcare providers, patient groups and partners will help drive the design, development and integration of sustainable solutions that respond to local needs.

C/Can is currently supporting nine cities across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe to identify, prioritise and respond to cancer care gaps. Whilst each city context is unique, common areas of need are emerging across the cities with opportunities to address these through digital health innovations, including for example:

> Training of healthcare professionals through online learning platforms

> Improving the quality of cancer diagnosis through integration of digital solutions for training, and remote planning and consultation

> Enhancing continuity of cancer care through information systems that promote data interchange, interoperability and accessibility

> Promoting a people-centred approach to cancer care through improved patient navigation systems



Together with key stakeholders, C/Can has recognised a critical need to rapidly identify other emerging approaches and opportunities to scale existing successful solutions, as well as key challenges.

That's why in June 2020, with support from a core group of partners, and as part of C/Can's commitment to respond to emerging city needs and support efforts to "build back better" following the Covid-19 pandemic⁴, C/Can launched the Digital Health Discovery Forum.

The first phase of work from June to September 2020 is focused on a core set of objectives:

> To **map digital health solutions** that are being deployed to deliver effective and efficient cancer care, and **identify opportunities to pilot/scale up** solutions in response to emerging needs in cities

> To **assess** the state of **local digital health innovation ecosystems**; **identify key barriers** to uptake of digital health innovations, and other **enabling conditions** including policy/regulatory, that are required to accelerate their positive impact on cancer care

> To foster **city-to-city learning** and **exchange of knowledge** and **good practices**

> To **identify** which other **stakeholders** can accelerate innovative approaches to cancer care.

⁽⁴⁾ World Health Organization (2020) COVID-19 significantly impacts health services for noncommunicable diseases. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/01-06-2020-covid-19-significantly-impacts-health-services-for-noncommunicable-diseases> (accessed 7 July 2020)

04

Scope of work

Through to September 2020, the Discovery Forum will focus on four areas of work:

1 Discovery interviews

Key opinion leaders from across regions and sectors (government, civil society, healthcare professionals, academia and industry) will be interviewed to map innovative cancer care solutions, as well as the barriers and enabling conditions for their uptake, particularly in low- and middle-income settings.



2 Regional expert dialogues

Building on insights gathered through the interviews, a series of interactive and outcome-oriented regional dialogues (Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America) with regional experts from across sectors will be convened to:

> share insights on emerging opportunities and innovations that respond to cancer care gaps in the region

> identify priority areas that could be applicable, scalable and replicable in low- and middle-income settings, and

> share practical lessons learned around barriers and enabling conditions for uptake of solutions

3 Knowledge exchange

Key insights and practical lessons-learned from the interviews and dialogues will be distilled and disseminated through C/Can's communications channels, including through its wide network of partners and city stakeholders.

4 Leveraging multi-sectoral action

A taskforce of multisectoral stakeholders that support C/Can's inclusive partnership approach, and that are committed to driving this agenda forward will be created. The taskforce will collaborate closely with C/Can to share their unique insights, expertise and networks, helping to ensure an action-oriented process.

05

Next steps

C/Can is committed to developing practical, actionable solutions for the continuous improvement of cancer care in cities. With support from our global network of experts and partners, a second phase of work would focus on:

ADOPT

Using the C/Can city process to ensure appropriate and adequate adoption of digital health solutions that respond to local needs and address the specific needs of patients and healthcare professionals.

INTEGRATE

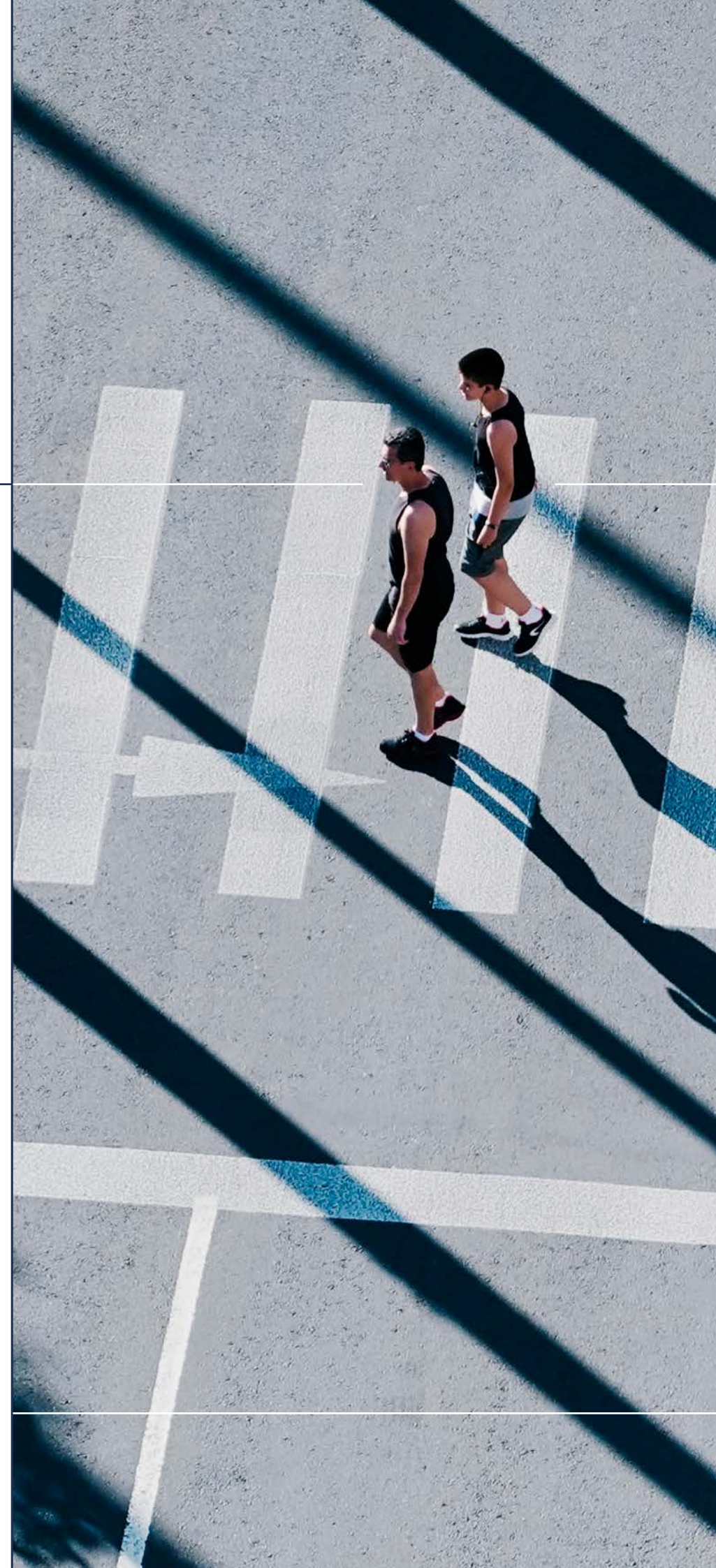
Supporting the development of policies, regulation and quality assurance processes that facilitate integration of effective digital health solutions into local and national cancer control planning.

EVALUATE

Building the evidence-base by providing a framework for the monitoring and evaluation of digital health solutions in C/Can cities.

CONNECT

Building a network of thought-leaders and experts across sectors, as well as developers and providers in the technology, digital health, and related arenas that could support the development and adoption of city solutions.





<https://citycancerchallenge.org/>



<https://echo.unm.edu/>

For more information and details of how to get involved please contact:
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