



C/Can Digital Health Discovery Forum

Collaborate, innovate and adapt:

Leveraging digital health
solutions for sustainable
cancer care in cities

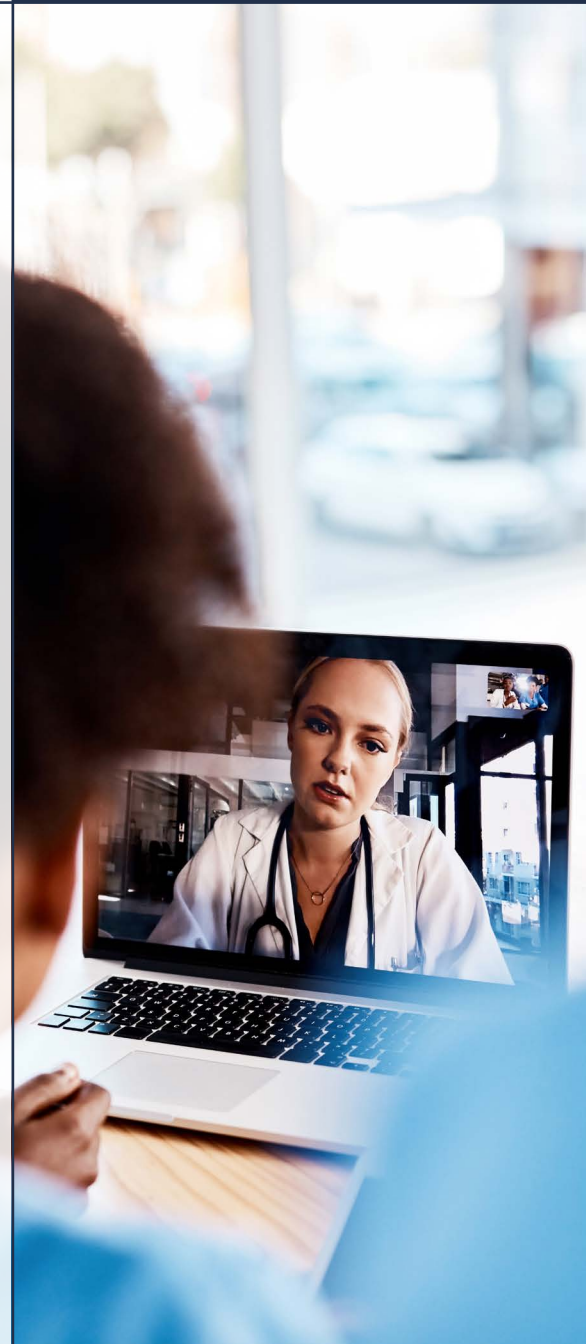


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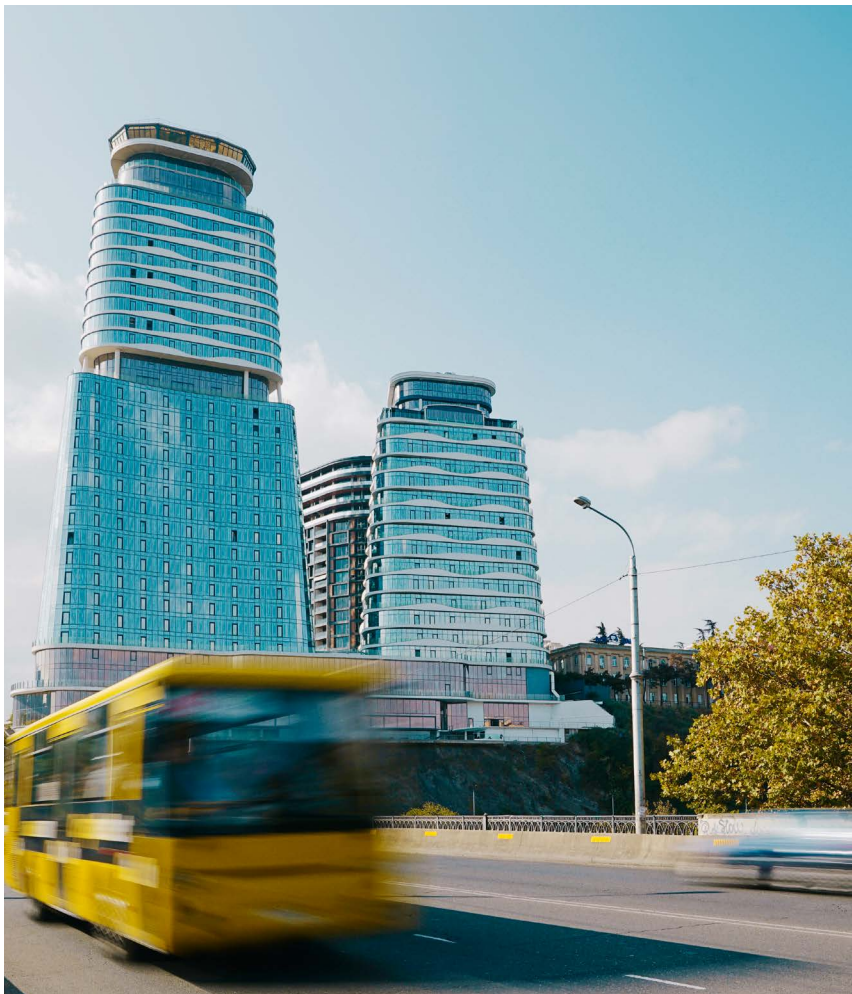


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Get
involved!



About City Cancer
Challenge



01

C/Can Digital Health Discovery Forum

In June 2020, as part of its commitment to respond to emerging city needs and support efforts to build back better following the Covid-19 pandemic, C/Can, with support from a core group of partners, launched the Digital Health Discovery Forum.

"Through the Digital Health Discovery Forum, C/Can aims to identify innovative ways of improving cancer care, and understand how successful solutions can be scaled across the regions where we work. Bringing together thought leaders and innovators, this process is creating new opportunities for collaboration and partnership around digital health that can make a difference in improving access to quality cancer care."

– Dr Susan Henshall, CEO, City Cancer Challenge

Key outputs

June to September 2020:

16

discovery interviews with key stakeholders, practitioners and opinion leaders

15

organisations identified and engaged for further collaboration

4

regional expert dialogues with a total of **82** participants from **33** countries

Insights captured and shared through a *Summary Report of the Regional Dialogues* and *10-key-lessons document* for city-to-city learning

Message dissemination through social media including **3** blogs and **2** videos, with overall reach of 460K impressions and 18,5K interactions.

Overall, the discovery process has highlighted region-specific and overarching needs that can be effectively addressed through digital solutions, including:



Building capacity of healthcare providers and medical education through digital platforms;



Improving diagnosis, treatment and care through remote planning and consultation;



Enhancing continuity of care through improved access to and interoperability of systems;



Promoting a patient-centred approach through (better) patient navigation systems.



02

Key
messages

Throughout the Discovery Forum process, three common messages emerged across cities and regions underlining the importance of a multisectoral, evidence-based and localised approach:

1 Multisectoral collaboration is central for the success of digital health solutions

Multisectoral collaboration is an important driver for successful implementation of digital health solutions for cancer care. This means engaging stakeholders from the public and private sectors, academia, civil society and international organisations. Beyond these 'traditional' actors in public health, relevant non-oncology stakeholders, such as technology, internet and telecommunications providers, as well as media outlets and community-based organisations that can help increase patient awareness, can also make important contributions to building effective digital health tools and interventions with the potential of being widely accepted and used.

2 There is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution: adapting to the local context is key

Cancer care needs and the level of readiness for digital approaches vary greatly across different countries and regions. This high level of diversity requires different responses that are adapted to fit the particular needs, challenges and conditions in each context.

Where 'simple can work better', leveraging easy solutions based on already existing practice and infrastructure can be a quick win with far-reaching impact. Innovation should not be pursued for its own sake but should aim to foster equitable access and avoid aggravating social inequalities or widening the digital divide.

3 Leveraging effective practices through evidence and learning

Given the broad range of interesting and viable initiatives that were highlighted in each region, there is a need for assessing and sharing lessons learned on successes and failures of digital solutions. Comprehensive mappings and a robust analysis of efforts are needed to help generate an evidence base for effective solutions that can be replicated across regions and countries with similar socio-cultural and economic settings.

03

What's next?

Harnessing opportunities and addressing limitations of technology based on collaboration, trust and transparency between all stakeholders is a prerequisite for success. Only a responsible approach centred on patients can lead to successful innovation in addressing cancer care gaps in cities.

As a next step, C/Can and an expanded group of partners are reviewing the outcomes of the Digital Health Discovery Forum to agree on and prioritise the most impactful solutions for cities seeking to improve cancer care for patients based on needs identified. This will require further collaborative efforts to map existing gaps and responses, determine how best to accelerate implementation at scale across multiple cities, identify additional individuals and organisations, including 'from outside' the oncology and public health communities, that need to be involved and agree on the necessary support and resources.

To this effect, we are looking to expand the current group of core partners to support us in these efforts and jointly build on the momentum based on lessons from the process.



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Opportunities moving forward

Two initial areas, where promising initiatives are already underway in C/Can cities, have been prioritised to start with:

Interoperability

The lack of exchange and interoperability between existing healthcare information systems, facilities and providers and in particular the fragmentation of cancer care services and related interruption of patient-information flows, is a challenge encountered in many low-resource settings. Improving interoperability by connecting stakeholders and institutions to access and share information, can minimise time and duplication of efforts for patients and providers, and impact on diagnostic and treatment decisions.

To address this gap, a multi-stakeholder initiative planned for roll-out in Kigali, Rwanda, aims to improve the exchange of medical information and coordination of healthcare service delivery, including patient navigation, at different levels through an innovative digital platform for medical professionals, including in oncology.

Standardised reporting

Linked to interoperability, and as the discovery process has highlighted, pathology and cancer registration are areas where digital health tools can provide effective solutions. There is a critical gap worldwide concerning the timeliness and quality of pathology reporting, which is essential for diagnosis and treatment decision-making, as well as cancer control planning and resource allocation. Improved and standardised pathology reports and data can thus impact on clinical management and cancer registration more broadly.

A successful multi-sectoral collaboration in Asuncion, Paraguay, has recently developed a prototype for a digitised cancer pathology reporting tool (to document and share cancer pathology findings) that is adapted to low-and-middle income settings and can be scaled globally in different languages.

Other areas, where gaps in cancer care and potentially scalable digital solutions have been identified - such as [capacity building and training](#), [remote planning and treatment](#), [patient navigation](#) - will be part of continued discussions with C/Can cities and key stakeholders.

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Get involved!

Are you interested in joining the next phase of the Discovery Forum to take these learnings forward and **collaborate, innovate and adapt** to further implement and scale digital solutions for cancer care in cities?

Does your organisation have expertise, resources, or technologies that support:

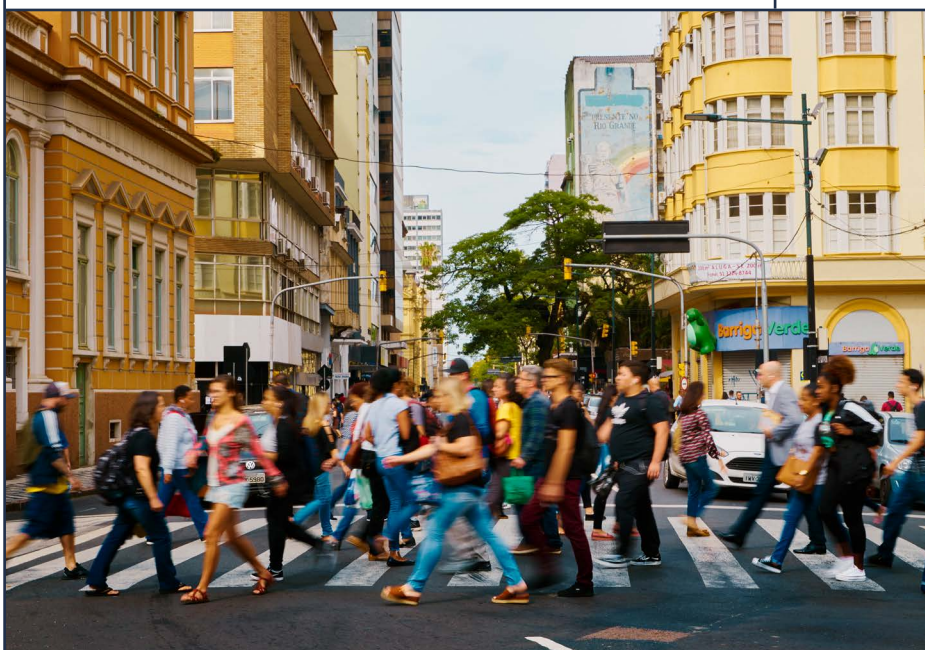
> Capacity development (strengthening cancer care providers' skills in relevant technological and digital domains)

> Digital literacy (improving skills of end-users including patients and healthcare professionals)

> Development and implementation of digital health solutions (and/or adaptation for scale)

> Data systems (improving collection, management and use of data through digital technologies)

Please contact Isabel Mestres, Director of Global Public Affairs at mestres@citycancerchallenge.org for more information.



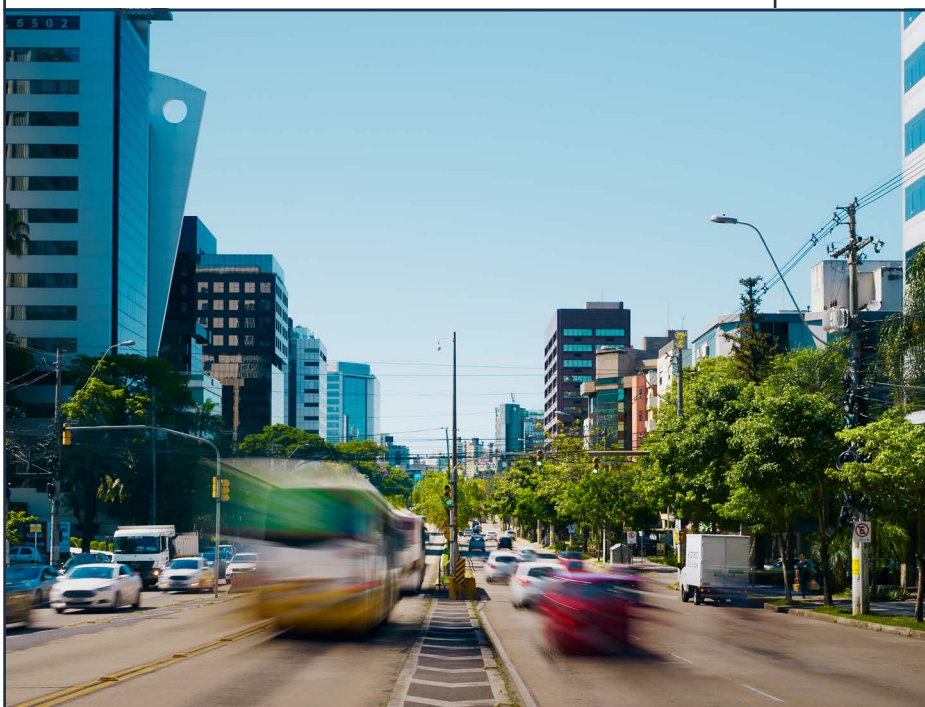
About City Cancer Challenge

City Cancer Challenge Foundation (C/Can) supports cities around the world as they work to improve access to equitable, quality cancer care.

C/Can leads a city-based partnership initiative that aims to improve access to quality cancer care in cities around the world by transforming the way stakeholders from the public and private sectors collectively design, plan, and implement cancer solutions.

The approach is built on the core principle that cities can drive impact at 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.

C/Can was launched by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) at the 2017 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. It was established as a standalone Swiss foundation in January 2019.



C/Can extends its sincere appreciation to interviewees, chairs, panelists and participants for sharing their valuable expertise, experience and insights. We also thank the following C/Can partners for their contribution to this project: Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS), Icon Group, Merck & Co. (MSD), Roche, and Varian Medical Systems.



<https://citycancerchallenge.org/>

