



GHeC

Global Healthcare Challenge

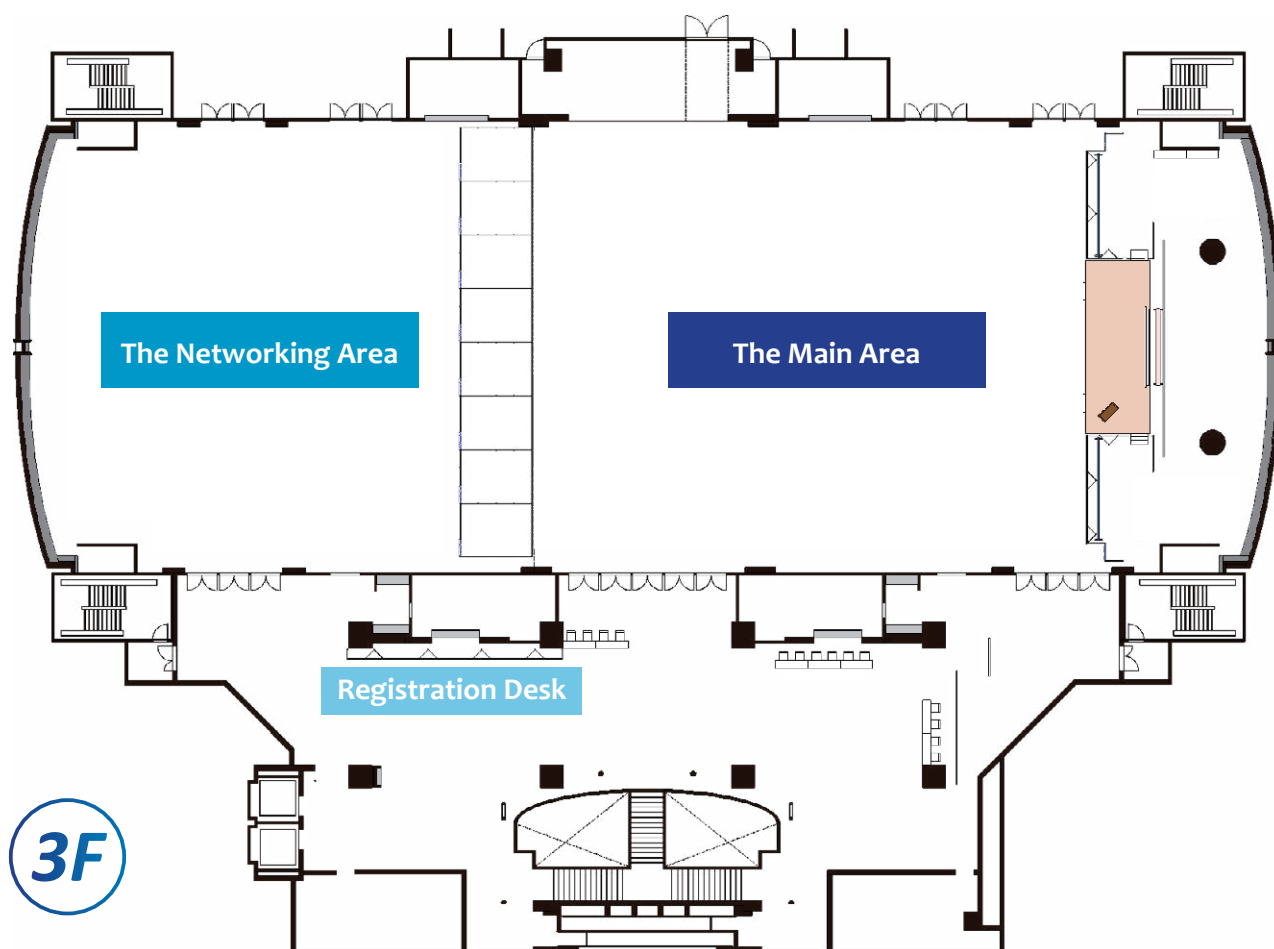
Accelerating Healthcare Innovation Beyond Borders

June 25th (Wed.) - 26th (Thu.) 2025

“Global Healthcare Challenge (GHeC)”

OUTLINE

Name	Global Healthcare Challenge (GHeC)
Theme	~ Accelerating Healthcare Innovation Beyond Borders ~
Date	<p>June 25th (Wed.) - 26th (Thu.) 2025 During healthcare theme week in EXPO 2025 Osaka * Related exhibitions will also be held at ‘Japan Health’</p> <div>  <p>Japan Health is an international trade fair where healthcare experts present their advanced technologies and medical services to the world.</p> </div>
Organizer	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
Cooperated by	National Cancer Center Japan; National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center; National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology; Institute of Science Tokyo; Strategic Global Partnership & X(Cross)-Innovation Initiative, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Osaka & The University of Osaka Hospital; Chiba University; Department of Medical Science, Osaka Metropolitan University; Osaka Dental University; American Medical Devices and Diagnostics Manufacturers’ Association; PhRMA; MIT Industrial Liaison Program
Site	Grand Prince Hotel Osaka Bay 3F Prince BALLROOM, Osaka, Japan (near the Expo site)
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectors : Health tech, Aging/ Care tech, etc. • Language : English only (simultaneous English-Japanese interpretation available) • Expected audience : Startups, Investors, Medical Professionals, Enterprise.
Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keynote speeches and panel discussions with invited healthcare key players across the world • Pitch contest for startups from both Japan and around the world • Reception party • Exhibitions at “Japan Health”



Day1 (25th June, Wed.)

Time	Type	Title
13:30-13:45	Opening	Opening Remark: - Ryo Minami, Director-General for Commerce and Service Industry Policy, METI, Japan - Hideo Ichinose, Chief Digital Officer, Osaka Prefecture Introduction
13:45-13:55	Keynote Speech	Future Healthcare in Denmark Sophie Løhde, Minister for the Interior and Health
13:55-14:05	Keynote Speech	Building a Healthcare Ecosystem in the Netherlands Barbara Goezinne, Vice Minister, Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sports
14:05-15:05	Panel Discussion	1. How Healthcare Startup Ecosystem is Shaped and Influences Country's Health System
15:15-15:25	Video Message	- Pattie Maes, Germeshausen Professor and Professor of Media Technology, MIT Media Lab Head, Fluid Interfaces Research Group - Halle Tecco, Adjunct Professor at Columbia Business School
15:25-16:25	Panel Discussion	2. Health Tech Revolution: Innovations and Future Trends
16:35-16:40	Video message	- Keren Etkin, Creator, TheGerontechnologist.com
16:40-17:40	Panel Discussion	3. Future of Aging and Care
17:45-18:00	Keynote Speech	Healthy Longevity Society in Scotland Neil Gray, Minister for Health and Social Care
18:00-19:00	Panel Discussion	4. Healthy Longevity: Global Perspectives and Approaches
19:00-19:10	Keynote Speech	Healthcare Startup Innovation and CIC's Activity and role in Japan Tak Umezawa, Chairperson, CIC Japan
19:10-19:15	Closing	Closing Remark: Päivi Sillanaukee, Special Envoy for Health and Wellbeing at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Day2 (26th June, Thu.)

Time	Type	Title
8:30-8:45	Opening	Opening Remark: - Mio Kawada, Executive Vice President, JETRO - Masami Sakoi, Chief Medical and Global Health Officer, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
8:45-9:45	Panel Discussion	5. The Future of Women's Health: Innovations and Insights.
9:55-10:55	Panel Discussion	6. Unlocking Opportunities in Emerging Markets
11:05-12:05	Panel Discussion	7. What's Next for Japan?: Globalizing Japanese Health Tech Ecosystem
12:05-13:05	lunch	Lunch Break and Networking Special Session Navigating Your Healthcare Innovation Path in the USA - Pankaj Jay Pasricha, Chair, Department of Medicine, Mayo Clinic Innovation Ecosystem around MIT - Gayathri Srinivasan, Executive Director, Corporate Relations at MIT
13:05-13:20	Introduction	Pitch Competition Introduction Video message - Yoji Muto, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
13:20-15:10	Pitch contest	Startup Presentation (10 startups)
15:20-17:10	Pitch contest	Startup Presentation (10 startups)
17:20-17:50	Panel Discussion	8. Creating Value Together: Collaboration with Japanese companies
17:50-18:20	Award/ Closing	Award Photo Shoot Closing Remark: Evan Felsing, Minister Counselor for Economic and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State
18:30-20:00	Reception	Networking

CONFERENCE

This symposium will feature a diverse lineup of speakers, including prominent figures and thought leaders in the healthcare field from Japan and around the world. Through multi-perspective discussions and insights, it will delve into topics such as healthcare ecosystem development and health tech innovation, with an eye on shaping the 'Future of Healthcare'.

Session 1 : June 25th Wed. 14:05-15:05

How Healthcare Startup Ecosystem is Shaped and Influences Country's Health System



Dr. Buzz Palmer (Australia)

Moderator

CEO, MedTech Actuator

Buzz Palmer co-founded the MedTech Actuator in 2018, and is the founding partner at Synthesis Capital - an impact-orientated VC investing in early-stage, deep technology especially, health and wellbeing related ventures. He is also a serial clinical entrepreneur - with a background in orthopaedic medicine and microsurgery - and a Professor at the University of Melbourne. He holds strategic roles with the WHO, the European Commission and sits on a number of boards and committees globally.



Dr. Carla Goulart Peron (Netherlands)

Chief Medical Officer, Philips

Carla Goulart Peron, MD, Philips Chief Medical Officer brings over 15 years of experience as both a practicing physician and a healthcare industry leader in medical devices and pharmaceuticals. She has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Strategic Management and a Doctor of Medicine with certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and applies her experience, energy, and passion for the advancement of women's health.



Ms. Kay Makishi (US, Japan)

Vice President, Lupoff/ Stevens Family Office

Kay Makishi is Vice President at Lupoff/Stevens Family Office, a NYC based single family office, advising investments into early-stage VC funds and startups. She is also an Advisor for Mount Sinai Innovation Partners, Ambassador for Invest Tokyo, Board Member of Oxford Alumni Association of New York, US-Japan Council Member, and Advisor to Anaut, a Japanese medical device startup, amongst other VCs/startups mainly in the US, Japan, and UK. She is a former founder, operator, and VC turned LP investor based in NYC. She received her bachelors from the Pennsylvania State University and masters from the University of Oxford (UK).



Dr. Joseph Damian Mocanu (Singapore)

Managing Partner, Verge HealthTech Fund

Joseph Mocanu is the co-founder and Managing Partner of Verge HealthTech Fund focusing on early-stage healthcare technology companies that make an impact on global health. Prior to this, he was a scientist researching new cancer therapies, a medical device entrepreneur, and a management consultant for Oliver Wyman where he led life sciences and digital health across Asia. He has 19 scientific publications, 3 patents, and has made investments in 37 healthcare technology companies to date. Joseph has a PhD from the University of Toronto, and an MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business.



Mr. Chris Sawyer (UK)

Innovation Lead, Digital Health, Innovate UK

Chris Sawyer is Digital Health Innovation Lead at Innovate UK, where he is responsible for identifying, developing, and delivering programmes to support the UK Digital Health sector. This currently includes the Biomedical Catalyst, BMC Accelerator programme and Investor Partnerships. He has over 35 years' experience in the healthcare technology sector, building a successful career at global healthcare companies Philips and Hewlett Packard where he held various positions in the UK and their US headquarters. Prior to joining Innovate UK, He held the position of Associate Director of Innovation in the NHS and was also responsible for overseeing the development of innovative technologies through the NHS Innovation Hubs.

Session 2 : June 25th Wed. 15:25-16:25

Health Tech Revolution: Innovations and Future Trends



Mr. Matthew Holt (US)

Moderator

Founder/Author, The Health Care Blog

Matthew Holt is an old curmudgeon in the world of health technology. Best known as the founder of The Health Care Blog (THCB) and (with Indu Subaiya) the Health 2.0 conferences, He now splits his time between THCB, and the SMACK.health Advisory service for health tech startups Starting in 2007 (yup, before Digital Health was cool!) Health 2.0 was the leading conference series showcasing frontier technologies in health care until 2020. The Health Care Blog has been a leading source of opinion, news and interviews about health and health technology since 2003, now with 100k visitors or so a month. He also talks a lot, maybe too much!



Dr. Joëlle Barral (France)

Senior Director of Research & Engineering, Google DeepMind

Joëlle Barral is a Senior Director of Research & Engineering at Google DeepMind, leading a global team advancing the frontiers of foundational AI research and applying AI to life sciences and healthcare. She joined Google in 2014 and spearheaded Verb Surgical, a joint venture between Verily and Johnson & Johnson, building an AI-augmented surgical robotics platform. After two decades in California, she is now based in Paris. She holds an MS in Maths/Physics from École Polytechnique and a PhD in EE from Stanford University.



Mr. Levi Shapiro (Israel)

Partner, Kizna Growth Partners

Levi Shapiro is Managing Partner of Kizna Growth Partners, an Israeli DeepTech venture fund partnering with Japan. He invests in distressed Israeli medical tech companies and leads funds like Life Science Vision. He founded mHealth Israel (12,000+ members), a non-profit supporting Israeli health and climate entrepreneurs. He taught at Reichman and Hebrew Universities. Starting at Toyota and IBM, he's fluent in Japanese and Italian, with leadership experience in Europe and Asia. He founded startups and serves on advisory boards. He studied at Tulane, Cornell, and MIT, and lives in Tokyo with ties to Tel Aviv and New York.



Mr. Robert Garber (US)

Managing Partner, 7wire Ventures

Robert Garber is currently a Managing Partner at 7wire Ventures, where he focuses on investments in digital health companies that empower consumers to be better stewards of their health in today's changing health ecosystem. He currently sits on the boards of Cylinder Health, Groundgame.Health, and Homethrive.



Dr. Tomohiro Kuroda (Japan)

Professor, Kyoto University

Tomohiro Kuroda received Ph.D. in information science from Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Japan in 1998. Since August 2013, he has been the director of Division of Medical Information Technology and Administrative Planning (Chief Information Office) of Kyoto University Hospital, Japan, where he also serves as the director of the center for Digital Transformation of Healthcare and the professor of medical informatics in the graduate school of medicine and the graduate school of informatics. His current research interests include Human Interface, Virtual/Augmented Reality, Wearable/Ubiquitous Computing, and Medical/Assistive informatics. He is the president of JSMBE, and a board member of JAMI, and a member of IEEE, ISVR, VRSJ, HISJ and others.

Session 3 : June 25th Wed. 16:40-17:40

Future of Aging and Care



Mr. Stephen Johnston (Australia)

Moderator

Fellow, Healthy Longevity, SOMPO Digital Lab, Inc

Stephen Johnston, is Fellow, Healthy Longevity at [SOMPO Digital Lab](https://sompodigital.io/en/) and Managing Director of [Fordcastle](http://www.fordcastle.com/), an impact focused advisory company and venture lab. He is also founder of the [Healthy Habitats](http://www.healthyhabitats.net) network and curates the [Looking Forward] (www.lookingforward.life) newsletter.



Mr. Vik Kashyap (US)

Founder & CEO, Toi Labs

Vik Kashyap is the Founder & CEO of Toi Labs, a Silicon Valley-based company backed by leading global bathroom brands and the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Toi Labs develops smart bathroom technology to support healthy aging and is currently expanding into Japan. He previously developed a novel treatment for inflammatory bowel disease and his journey has been featured in two books: *An Epidemic of Absence* and *Pipe Dreams*. Earlier in his career, he was a venture capitalist at Battery Ventures, where he invested from a \$1 billion global technology fund. He has also served as an angel investor and senior advisor to several technology companies, including Japan's largest enterprise software firm. He is a graduate of Harvard University.



Mr. Mel Barsky (Canada)

Partner, Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI) Ventures

Mel Barsky is a Partner at CABHI Ventures & Director at the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI). CABHI, led by Baycrest Health Sciences, helps innovators develop, disseminate, scale, and promote adoption of promising innovations in the aging and brain health sector. CABHI has funded over \$200M and has levered an additional \$80M+ for investing in the brain health and longevity sector. To-date, CABHI has funded over 550 projects globally. CABHI innovators and companies have secured over \$600M in follow-on investments. Currently, CABHI is the most active AgeTech investor in North America.



Ms. Yasuko Akutsu (Japan)

Associate Professor, Chiba University Hospital

After completing graduate studies, Yasuko Akutsu commenced her professional career at GK Industrial Design Institute, where she was engaged in marketing research pertaining to product design and urban development master planning. Subsequently, she took a career break to focus on child-rearing. Following this period, She contributed to the establishment of several commercial brands and managed multiple retail operations, including a children's furniture store, a health-focused sleep shop, and a healthcare consulting service. In 2012, she founded MT Health Care Design Research Inc., specializing in the integration of design and healthcare. Since 2019, she has held the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Patient Support at Chiba University Hospital.



Dr. Esther Talboom-Kamp (Netherlands)

COO Cure, Zuyderland

Esther Talboom-Kamp, member of the Board of Directors at Zuyderland, plays a key role in the hospital's digital healthcare transformation. Under her leadership, Zuyderland, in collaboration with health insurer CZ, secured transformation funding to drive innovation in care delivery. A medical doctor with a PhD in eHealth implementation from Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), she also serves as Associate Professor and board member of the National eHealth Living Lab. With prior leadership roles at Saltro and Unilabs, her vision focuses on digital care pathways, regional collaboration, and scientific evaluation to ensure accessible, personalized, and future-proof healthcare.

Session 4 : June 25th Wed. 18:00-19:00

Healthy Longevity: Global Perspectives and Approaches



Mr. Michael Ringel (US)

Moderator

Chief Operating Officer, Life Biosciences

Michael Ringel is Chief Operating Officer at Life Biosciences, a company focused on cellular rejuvenation for diseases of aging. Prior to joining Life Bio, he was Managing Director and Senior Partner at BCG, where he worked for 25 years. He is on the Board of Hevolution Foundation US, the charitable organization focused on extending healthy aging, the Board of AFAR, one of the oldest organizations supporting healthy aging through biomedical research, and on the Executive Board of the Sheba Longevity Center, a clinic devoted to healthy aging at one of the world's best hospitals. He holds a B.A. summa cum laude in biology from Princeton University, a Ph.D. in biology from Imperial College, and a J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School.



Ms. Patricia Debergue (Canada)

Program Director, National Research Council of Canada

Patricia Debergue is the director of the National Research Council of Canada's (NRC) Aging in Place Challenge Program, a program that is part of NRC's Life Sciences division and that supports the choice of older Canadians to age in place within their homes and communities, through technology and innovation. Before becoming program director in April 2022, she was leading a research section in digital health at the NRC's Medical Devices Research Centre where she had been conducting research for over 15 years.



Mr. Peter Julius (Denmark)

CEO, Public Intelligence

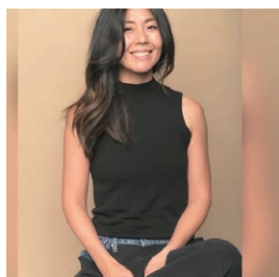
Peter Julius is the CEO of Public Intelligence. He founded the company in 2007. He is an international speaker and innovator and is recognized for his senior knowledge within care, social and wellbeing innovation. A better life for people in need of care is the main driver for his ambition of combining the strongholds of Japan and Denmark. The idea is to create global possibilities for companies in a unique business combination of Japan and Denmark. He has been advising more than 100 plus startups within the care industry and has an extensive international network. He is also an expert within Living Labs and is promoting the idea of systematic innovation with the Public Intelligence Living Lab Methodology.



Dr. Naoki Kondo (Japan)

Professor, Kyoto University

Naoki Kondo has been a professor of Social Epidemiology at Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine since 2020. He is a physician specializing in the elucidation of social determinants of health, such as poverty and isolation, and their countermeasures. He is involved in the development of equitable health promotion services that leave no one behind and their evaluation methods by promoting multiple project including the Japan Gerontological Evaluation Study, a follow-up study of 300,000 older people. He is an expert member of the World Health Organization's Technical Advisory Group on Social Connection.



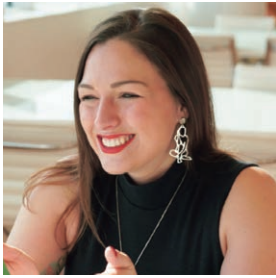
Ms. Rie Yano (US, Japan)

Co-Creator of Vitalist Bay & Venture Partner @Coral Capital, House Authentic

Rie Yano is a serial entrepreneur and investor with deep expertise in the U.S. and Japanese startup ecosystems. She's the co-creator of Vitalist Bay, a longevity innovation hub in the Bay Area, and a Venture Partner at Coral Capital. Previously, she founded Material World, a pioneering fashion trade-in platform in NY that redefined luxury resale. After the company's acquisition by MIXI and serving as GM of the U.S. entity post-exit, Rie returned to building and advising startups—now focused on longevity, AI, and robotics—while supporting cross-border expansion and early-stage innovation.

Session 5 : June 26th Thu. 8:45-9:45

The Future of Women's Health: Innovations and Insights



Dr. Brittany Barreto (US)

Moderator

CEO, FemHealth Insights

Brittany Barreto is a leading voice in women's health innovation, offering strategic insights on the femtech market to corporations, investors, and governments. She is the bestselling author of *Unlocking Women's Health* and host of the *FemTech Focus* podcast. With a Ph.D. in Molecular and Human Genetics from Baylor College of Medicine, she is also a serial entrepreneur—known for launching Pheramor, the first DNA-based dating app—and co-founded the VC firm Coyote Ventures. She leads the largest online femtech founder community and is a global speaker on gender equity in health innovation.



Dr. Alice Zheng (US)

Partner, Foreground Capital

Alice Zheng, MD is a Co-founder and Partner at Foreground Capital, a venture capital firm investing in early-stage women's health start-ups. Previously, she was a Principal at Foreground's precursor funds at RH Capital, where she and the team built one of the largest dedicated venture capital portfolios in women's health. At Foreground Capital, she continues to manage RH Capital funds and serves as a board director for Seven Starling and Millie and as a board observer for AOA and Cofertility. Prior to that, Alice was a women's health practice leader and management consultant at McKinsey & Company. Alice holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and MD/MPH from the University of Michigan.



Ms. Helen Tomlinson (UK)

Head of Inclusion, Adecco

Helen Tomlinson was appointed as the former Governments Menopause Employment Champion. Working alongside the Department for Work and Pensions, she worked with employers to develop strategies that empower women experiencing menopause to stay and progress in work. Applying the principles of Education, Allyship, Lived Experience & Leadership creating Cultural Change, she built a clearly defined sector based strategy to support women across all aspects of intersectionality throughout their career from a women's health perspective.



Ms. Tomoko Minagawa (Japan)

Founder and Representative Director, Femtech Community Japan

Tomoko Minagawa is the Founder and Representative Director of Femtech Community Japan and currently serves as Executive Director, Women's Health Commercial Lead at Organon Japan. She leads business development in women's health and femtech, and has built a 500+ member network to accelerate the femtech industry in Japan and globally. Previously, she was an investor at Global Brain, focusing on femtech, insurtech, and deeptech, and worked in management consulting at IBM and as a startup executive. She holds a Master's in Engineering from the University of Tokyo and an MBA from the University of Cambridge.



Ms. Rhiannon Box (Australia)

Assistant Secretary, Health Equity Branch, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Rhiannon Box is a public sector leader with extensive experience in health, aged care, and social policy. She is currently Assistant Secretary of the Health Equity Branch at the Department of Health and Aged Care, leading efforts to improve healthcare for priority populations and drive the Government's women's health agenda. She previously led the development of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032, and is committed to collaborative reform through engagement with stakeholders, academics, front-line workers, and communities.

Session 6 : June 26th Thu. 9:55-10:55

Unlocking Opportunities in Emerging Markets



Dr. Kenji Shibuya (Japan)

Moderator

CEO, Medical Excellence JAPAN

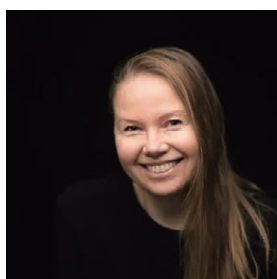
Kenji Shibuya is a global health expert specializing in systems innovation, venture investment, and healthcare globalization. He is CEO of Medical Excellence JAPAN and Venture Partner at Eight Roads Ventures Japan. A former professor at King's College London and the University of Tokyo, he has advised WHO, CEPI, and governments worldwide. He helped shape Japan's global health policy at the G8 and G7 summits. Dr. Shibuya holds an MD from the University of Tokyo and a doctorate in public health from Harvard.



Ms. Geetali Kumar (Singapore)

Head of Venture Capital and Disruptive Technology Investments, East Asia & Pacific, International Finance Corporation

Geetali Kumar leads IFC's equity investments in early to growth-stage tech companies and VC funds across emerging Asian markets, and serves on their boards and LP advisory committees. She previously spent 15 years with Actis, Leapfrog, DEG, and Bamboo Capital, investing in consumer, tech, financial services, and healthcare sectors. She began her career in investment banking at Citigroup. She holds an MBA (Dean's List) from the National University of Singapore and a BBA (Honors) from the University of Mumbai. She was recently featured in GPCA's Southeast Asia Women Investors Directory.



Ms. Zhenya Lindgardt (US)

CEO, The Commons Project Foundation

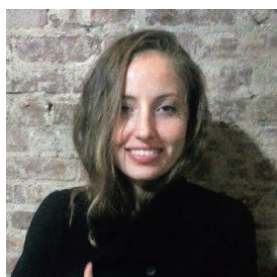
Zhenya Lindgardt served as CEO of The Commons Project Foundation focusing on empowering people with their health data and enabling stronger ecosystem healthcare across the world. She also leads a public pregnancy diagnostics company Sera Prognostics, Inc., which provides biomarker tests to reduce effects of preterm birth and pregnancy complications. Previously, She was a member of Uber Technologies, Inc executive team and Senior partner and Managing Director with The Boston Consulting Group nearly two decades. She holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and lives in San Francisco with her husband and three daughters.



Dr. Biju Mohandas (Kenya)

Partner, LeapFrog Investments

Biju Mohandas is Partner and Global Head of Healthcare Investments with over two decades of investing, operating and leadership experience spanning 20 countries in Asia and Africa. He serves on the Investment Committee of LeapFrog's flagship fund and is a member of the firm's Executive Committee.



Ms. Maria Rabinovich (US, Kenya)

Founder, co-CEO, Flare (Rescue.co)

Maria is a technologist who co-founded Flare in 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. Also known as rescue.co, the company has built a cloud-native emergency response platform addressing the lack of access to emergency services in 2/3 of the world. Today they operate in several countries and have rescued over 45,000 people from previously impossible situations. Before founding Flare, she worked in engineering, UX and product leadership in New York and LA, including leading product development and digital campaigns for Unilever, JP Morgan Chase, and Intel and startups like WeWork and Qwire. She holds a Masters in Interactive Telecommunications from New York University.

Session 7 : June 26th Thu. 11:05-12:05

What's Next for Japan? : Globalizing Japanese Health Tech Ecosystem



Mr. Akihisa Shiozaki (Japan) Moderator

Member of the House of the Representatives, Japan

Akihisa Shiozaki is a Member of Japan's House of Representatives from Ehime's 1st District and Deputy Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). He previously led the LDP's web3 and AI Project Teams, authoring key whitepapers that helped shape national policy in these areas. Prior to politics, he was a prominent attorney specializing in corporate crisis management and cross-border governance issues. He served as a senior policy advisor in the Prime Minister's Office (2006–2007). He holds an LL.B. from the University of Tokyo, an M.A. in International Policy from Stanford, and an MBA from Wharton, where he was class president.



Ms. Kanoko Oishi (Japan)

CEO, Mediva Inc.

Kanoko Oishi is a graduate of Harvard Business School (MBA). She founded Mediva Inc., a healthcare dedicated consulting company in 2000 after working as a partner at McKinsey & Company. Mediva not only provides consulting services but also develops and operates its own hospitals, clinics and nursing care facilities, in Japan and abroad. She serves on numerous governmental committees, including the Regulatory Reform Council and Vice CEO of Medical Excellence Japan. She is an outside director for Shiseido, Ezaki Glico, etc. She is a member of the Harvard Business School Japan Advisory Board and Osaka University Management Council at.



Mr. Robert Claar (US, Japan)

CEO, HekaBio K.K.

Robert Claar is CEO of HekaBio K.K., a bio-venture focused on accelerating access to innovative medicines and MedTech in global markets. With over 30 years of experience, he has founded and led multiple healthcare businesses across Japan, the US, and Europe, including Junicon and Vorpall Technologies. Rob is known for building trusted global networks in MedTech and Pharma through collaboration, persistence, and a positive mindset.



Dr. Ulrike Schaede (US, Germany)

Professor, University of California San Diego

Ulrike Schaede is Professor of Japanese Business at the University of California San Diego, where she teaches at the School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) and directs the Japan Forum for Innovation and Technology (JFIT). Her research covers Japanese corporate strategy, management, innovation, and economic policy. She is the author of *The Business Reinvention of Japan* (2020) and *Japan Re-Emerges* (2024), both of which have become bestsellers in Japan. She holds a Ph.D. in Japan Studies and Economics from Marburg University and has spent over nine years conducting research in Japan.



Mr. Sinclair Dunlop (UK)

Managing Partner, Epidarex Capital

Sinclair Dunlop is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Epidarex Capital, a venture capital firm investing in life science companies. With over 25 years of experience, he serves on the Boards of Apellis Pharmaceuticals, Clyde Biosciences, and Lario Therapeutics. He holds an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School, an M.A. with Honours in Political Economy from the University of Glasgow, and an M.A. in International Relations from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Earlier in his career, he was a political economist in Washington, D.C. He also chairs Inspiring Scotland, a major venture philanthropy charity.

Special Session : June 26th Thu. 12:05-13:05



Navigating Your Healthcare Innovation Path in the USA

Dr. Pankaj J. Pasricha, M.B.B.S., M.D. (US)
Professor, Mayo Clinic



Innovation Ecosystem around MIT
Dr. Gayathri Srinivasan (US)

Executive Director,
MIT Corporate Relations

Session 8 : June 26th Thu. 17:20-17:50

Creating Value Together : Collaboration with Japanese companies



Ms. Aki Jiang (US)

Moderator

Principal, World Innovation Lab(WiL)

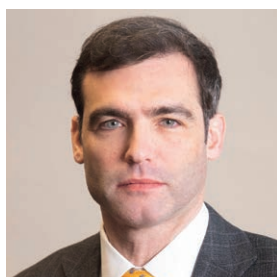
Aki Jiang focuses on direct investments in health tech, AI, and enterprise software at WiL (World Innovation Lab). WiL is a venture capital firm that partners with leading global corporations and government entities in Japan and Asia. With offices in Palo Alto and Tokyo, the firm's mission is to serve as a bridge between startups and corporations in the United States, Europe, and Asia, with a particular focus on Japan. She holds a B.A. from the University of Tokyo and an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business. She completed Stanford's d.school class Design for Extreme Affordability, and is a recipient of the Masa Son Scholarship Generation 1. She has been selected as one of Venture Capital Journal's 40 under 40 Rising Stars.



Mr. Nicky Pratama Agahari (US, Australia)

Founder & CEO, Australis Scientific Pty Ltd.

Nicky Pratama Agahari is the Chairman, CEO and Founder of Australis Scientific which was spun out of Harvard Medical School Health Tech Fellowship in 2022. Australis Scientific is commercializing a platform neuromodulation technology starting with the Confidanz™ Smart Patch a discreet digital solution for the management of urinary incontinence. Prior to founding he has extensive commercial experience at Medtronic and Boston Scientific having held positions in R&D, Corporate Research, Sales, Marketing and Corporate Venture throughout APAC, ASEAN, North America and Greater China. He holds a B.Sc (Medical Science), MBA and a Health Tech Fellowship from Harvard Medical School.



Dr. William Chernicoff (US)

Senior Manager Global Research & Innovation

William Chernicoff is currently the Senior Manager of Global Research and Innovation at the Toyota Mobility Foundation. In this role, he currently leads and established the Foundation's original research agenda, initiatives, and programs, while also providing technology guidance to various projects. With a focus on both near- and long-term perspectives, he identifies, conceives, and executes new technology approaches that enhance the solutions implemented by the Foundation and its partners. His educational background includes a BS in Materials Science and Engineering from M.I.T., a MS in Manufacturing Engineering from Boston University, a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering and Engineering Management from George Washington University, and an EMBA from the RH Smith School of Business.

OTHER SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEECH

June 25th Wed.



13:45-13:55

Future Healthcare in Denmark

Ms. Sophie Løhde (Denmark)

Minister for the Interior and Health

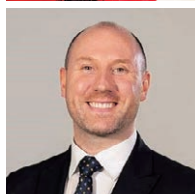


13:55-14:05

**Building a Healthcare Ecosystem
in the Netherlands**

Ms. Barbara Goezinne (Netherlands)

Vice Minister,
Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sports



17:45-18:00

Healthy Longevity Society in Scotland

Mr. Neil Gray (Scotland)

Minister for Health and Social Care



19:00-19:10

**Healthcare Startup Innovation and
CIC's Activity and role in Japan**

Mr. Tak Umezawa (Japan)

Chairperson, CIC Japan

VIDEO MESSAGE

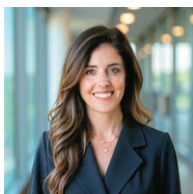
June 25th Wed.

15:15-15:25



Ms. Pattie Maes (US)

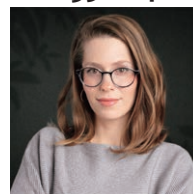
Germeshausen Professor and Professor of
Media Technology, MIT Media Lab Head,
Fluid Interfaces Research Group



Ms. Halle Tecco (US)

Adjunct Professor at
Columbia Business School

16:35-16:40



Ms. Keren Etkin (Israel)

Creator,
TheGerontechnologist.com

PITCH EVENT

This contest selected startups offering innovative products, services, or technologies in healthcare fields such as healthtech, medtech, and agetechnology, with a clear vision for global expansion. Out of more than 350 companies worldwide, the 20 most outstanding were chosen as finalists.



AI Medical Service Inc.



Japan

AI Medical Service develops endoscopic AI technology to detect early-stage gastrointestinal cancers. Their real-time diagnostic tools support physicians, aiming to save lives globally through early cancer detection and prevention.



Aillis Inc.



Japan

Aillis pioneers AI-powered throat diagnostics, offering pain-free, rapid tests for infectious diseases like flu. With insurance approval and a growing database, Aillis redefines AI's role in clinical care.



Aktivlabs Pte. Ltd.



Singapore

Aktivlabs provides digital health solutions using real-time data and AI to predict and prevent chronic diseases. Their tools drive engagement, reduce insurance costs, and support global health and longevity initiatives.



Anaut Inc.



Japan

Anaut addresses the high risk (15%) of serious surgical complications, often caused by misrecognition. Aims to reduce these complications using AI visualization to enhance surgical vision.



Anise Health, Inc.



USA

Anise Health is a culturally-responsive digital mental health platform focused on Asian Americans, delivering personalized therapy, coaching, and community support through AI and integrated care to improve outcomes.



Bloomlife



USA

Bloomlife addresses rising US maternal mortality rates. A tech-enabled healthcare company redefining maternal care delivery using FDA-cleared prenatal wearables for monitoring, enabling personalized, predictive care.



EyeCare SpA



Chile

EyeCare SpA aims to make vision diagnosis accessible and affordable for children, preventing learning/growth issues caused by late diagnosis. Addresses the high prevalence of solvable vision problems and serious eye diseases.



FathomX Pte. Ltd.



Singapore

FathomX Pte. Ltd. empowers women's health by addressing breast cancer, the #1 killer cancer among women. Highlights that early detection saves lives and aims to improve low screening rates worldwide.



Impli



UK

Impli tackles the issue that infrequent blood draws provide insufficient data for optimal treatment decisions across various health areas. Offers a tiny, dime-sized implantable platform for real-time biomarker monitoring.



KA Imaging



Canada

KA Imaging delivers innovative X-ray products providing better actionable data for improved outcomes at lower costs. Vision is "Innovative X-ray Everywhere," targeting a \$40B market opportunity with unique SpectralDR (color) X-ray technology.



Kintsugi



USA

Kintsugi develops foundational AI models for human insights, "surfacing the unspoken". Addresses the widespread struggle to access mental healthcare, noting high stress and mental health risks among Japanese workers, causing devastating consequences.



MabLab



USA

MabLab aims to prevent such deaths by developing tests for laced drugs/spiked drinks, addressing undetected dangerous agents beyond fentanyl.



Malama Health



USA

Malama offers doula-led, tech-enabled care for high-risk pregnancies, enhancing maternal outcomes through culturally competent navigation, coordination, and remote monitoring, especially for gestational diabetes and postpartum health across Medicaid populations.



MicroHeal



India

MicroHeal's mission is to enhance existing drug therapies with Digital Therapeutics (DTX) to manage chronic conditions and disorders by leveraging cutting-edge digital therapy (AI/ML, AR/VR, and IoT devices)



Neurosoft Bioelectronics



Switzerland

Neurosoft Bioelectronics develops minimally invasive brain interfaces for severe neurological disorders, with a long-term vision of creating non-invasive interfaces for everyone, redefining interaction with technology.



Neurowyze Pte Ltd



Singapore

Neurowyze, founded in 2019, aims for brain longevity via digital neuroscience. Recognized by Forbes Asia and Medtech Innovator, it has regulatory approval in 8 countries and serves 30+ clients.



QART Medical Ltd.



Israel

QART Medical aims to revolutionize IVF by providing objective data for sperm cell selection. Its breakthrough solution offers highly informative characterization, striving to improve IVF success rates and establish a new standard.



syd life AI

syd™ Life AI



UK

syd life AI delivers AI-powered preventative health and life quality solutions. It tackles the staggering global cost of chronic, yet preventable, diseases by focusing on lifestyle changes to improve individual outcomes.



TIIM Healthcare Pte. Ltd.



Singapore

TIIM Healthcare tackles the high cost and long delays of emergency department chest pain evaluations. Its aiTriage platform provides rapid, accurate, and cost-effective AI-powered risk stratification for these common visits.



TOY EIGHT Holdings Inc.



Japan

Toyeight provides an AI screening tool to transform early child development. It tackles inaccessible screening in many countries, enabling personalized, inclusive learning and timely support during crucial developmental years.

JUDGES



Mr. Michael Ringel
(US)



Mr. Robert Garber
(US)



Dr. Carla Goulart Peron
(Netherlands)



Ms. Kyoko Deguchi
(Japan)



Mr. Matthew Holt
(US)



Ms. Abby Miller Levy
(US)

FIRESIDE CHAT

June 25th Wed.

14:30-15:15

“What are providers and payers prioritizing today - from the Japan & US lens?” (EN)



Dr. Anna Nakayasu (Japan)
Investment Professional,
GLOBIS Capital Partners



Mr. Gregg Shibata (US)
Senior Principal, Corporate
Development Investment,
Blue Shield of California

16:00-16:45

“ヘルスケアスタートアップの“GROWTH & EXIT”
—スタートアップと大企業との連携” (JP)



Mr. Takeshi Yanagimoto
(Japan)
Managing Director &
Partner, BCG



Mr. Takayuki Sato
(Japan)
Deputy Director
Healthcare Industries
Division, METI

17:15-18:15

“Scaling Health Innovation Through Japan:
Challenges, Partnerships, and Pathways” (EN)



Mr. Yuya Watanabe
(Japan)
Program Manager,
Scrum Studio Inc.



Mr. Rodney Kelly
(UK, Japan)
Chief Growth Officer,
HekaBio



Mr. Adam Claydon-Platt
(US, Japan)
Head of Commercial &
Ventures, CarterIGNITE

June 26th Thu.

9:00-10:00

“Advancing Healthcare Through Collaboration:
Medical Research Meets Tech Transfer” (EN)



Ms. Molly Martell (US)
Entrepreneur in Residence,
DigitalDx Ventures

10:30-11:30

“日本のヘルスケアスタートアップの可能性” (JP)



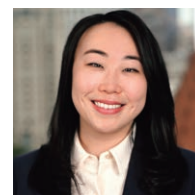
Mr. Shinnnosuke Tokumoto (Japan)
Senior Analyst, Healthcare Sector,
Equality Research,
SMBC Nikko Securities Inc.

12:00-13:00

“Health Tech Investment Trends in the US:
Insights from Women VCs” (EN)



Ms. Emily Zhen
(US)
Principal, Zeal
Capital Partners



Ms. Christine Keung
(US)
General Partner,
J2 Ventures



Ms. Tomoko Ishikura
(Japan)
Managing Partner,
Kicker Ventures

