

2026 EMPOWERING HEALTH CONFERENCE

BRIDGING THE FUTURE OF HEALTH: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL PREPAREDNESS, INNOVATION, & ACCESSIBILITY

PROGRAM AGENDA | MAY 7, 2026

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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9:00am - 9:05am

Conference Welcome and Overview

Nerice Millet-Williams; Project Coordinator, University of Maryland Extension- Marylanders Online

9:05am - 9:15am

Keynote Remarks: Maryland's AI & Health Landscape

Tasha Cornish; Executive Director, Cybersecurity Association, Inc.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand Maryland's AI Roadmap and how the state is positioning itself as a leader in AI and health technology, including key infrastructure and ethical frameworks.
- Identify key policy trends and regulatory developments at the state and federal levels, and how Maryland is advancing responsible and equitable AI use.
- Explore innovative care delivery models leveraging AI to improve health outcomes and system efficiency.

9:15am - 10:00am

Securing the Future of Health: AI Governance, Cyber Readiness, and Institutional Accountability

Isaias Tesfalidet; Project Director, University of Maryland Extension- Marylanders Online

Learning Objectives:

- Assess AI readiness and governance needs by distinguishing levels of risk, defining accountability, and identifying where human oversight is essential.
- Identify and mitigate legal, ethical, and cybersecurity risks associated with AI, including data protection, bias, compliance, and liability considerations.
- Apply practical frameworks for responsible AI implementation to support secure, transparent, and equitable integration within health systems.

10:00am - 10:15am

Morning Break 1



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10:15am - 11:00am

Building the Next Health Frontier: Decoding Emerging Tech Trends

Dr. Dhruti Patel; Tenured Extension Faculty, University of Maryland Extension

Learning Objectives:

- Understand emerging digital health technologies (e.g., AI, remote monitoring, virtual care) and how they are transforming care delivery in homes and communities.
- Evaluate the infrastructure required to support digital health solutions, including interoperable data systems, scalable platforms, and organizational readiness.
- Apply lessons from real-world case studies to assess implementation strategies and build resilient, ethical, and community-centered health ecosystems.

11:00am - 11:15am

Morning Break 2

11:15am - 12:00pm

Universal Innovation: Advancing AI Without Leaving Communities Behind

Facilitator:

Teri Mumm; Digital Navigation Program Manager, University of Maryland Extension- Marylanders Online

Panelists:

Dan Doggett; IT Accessibility Program Specialist, Maryland IT Accessibility Initiative

Dr. Jessica A. Stansbury; Director of Teaching and Learning Excellence, CELTT; Founding Director, Center for AI Learning and Community-Engaged Innovation (CALI), University of Baltimore

Deborah Wilson; Certified AI Consultant, AI Healthcare Consulting

Dennis Tran; Disability Justice Steering Committee Board Member, American Public Health Association

Mustafa Rfat; Ph.D. candidate, Washington University in St. Louis

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11:15am - 12:00pm

Universal Innovation: Advancing AI Without Leaving Communities Behind (Cont.)

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the risks of digital inequity in AI adoption and how emerging technologies can impact underserved and diverse populations.
- Identify strategies for inclusive and accessible design (“parity by design”) to ensure AI tools meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, limited access, and varied community contexts.
- Apply practical approaches to modernize service delivery using AI in ways that promote equity, accessibility, and community empowerment.

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch

1:00pm - 1:45pm

Practical AI Integration for Health Education: Enhancing Learning with Human-Centered Technology

Quisha Umemba; CEO, Umemba Health

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how AI can function as a teaching assistant in health education, including its role in automating tasks, supporting simulations, and enhancing learning experiences.
- Identify the key components of Human-in-the-Loop learning systems and how they strengthen mentorship, feedback, and clinical reasoning.
- Apply practical frameworks and workflows for integrating AI into health education, with a focus on improving learner outcomes and patient-provider interactions.

1:45pm - 2:00pm

Afternoon Break 1

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2:00pm - 2:45pm

The Future of Work in Health: Human + AI Collaboration in Workforce Development

Facilitator:

Teri Mumm; Digital Navigation Program Manager, University of Maryland Extension- Marylanders Online

Panelists:

Dr. Yulin Hswen; Associate Professor, University of Maryland

Dr. LaKeisha Harris; Dean, School of Graduate Studies, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Dr. Kimberly Poole-Sykes; Chair, Department of Education, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Dr. Joshua Sharfstein; Distinguished Professor of the Practice, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Obiageli Nwachukwu; MSc. Candidate in Bioinformatics, Morgan State University

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how AI and automation are reshaping the healthcare workforce, including emerging roles and the shift toward a Human + AI care model.
- Distinguish between task automation and workforce transformation, with examples of how AI augments—not replaces—human expertise across health sectors.
- Identify key workforce development strategies, including building AI literacy and preparing teams for ethical, collaborative, and technology-enabled care.

2:45pm - 3:00pm

Afternoon Break 2

3:00pm - 3:50pm

Global Digital Health in Action: UMD SPH Capstone Innovations

Facilitator:

Dr. Hassanatu Blake; Associate Clinical Professor & Inaugural Director, Global Health and Undergraduate Studies, GEOH, University of Maryland

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3:00pm - 3:50pm

Global Digital Health in Action: UMD SPH Capstone Innovations (Cont.)

Panelists:

Omolola Adegbemileke; Global Digital Health Undergraduate Student- School of Public Health, University of Maryland
Bertille Ingrid Dago; Global Digital Health Undergraduate Student- School of Public Health, University of Maryland
Varsha Erapogla; Global Digital Health Undergraduate Student- School of Public Health, University of Maryland

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how local and global health systems are interconnected, and the role of technology in shaping health policy, research, and interventions.
- Examine emerging innovations from UMD SPH capstone projects, focusing on how integrated technology improves health outcomes at a global scale.
- Identify global digital health inequities and strategies to address them, using real-world examples to build more accessible and effective health systems.

3:50pm - 3:55pm

Final Remarks

Dr. Jinhee Kim; Professor, Associate Director, and Associate Dean, University of Maryland Extension (UME)

Learning Objectives:

- Summarize University of Maryland Extension's key contributions to advancing health technology, including current initiatives and focus areas.
- Highlight how these efforts support communities, particularly in improving access, understanding, and use of health technology.
- Identify emerging research and future directions that will shape the continued advancement of health technology within the University of Maryland.

3:55pm - 4:00pm

Conference Closing

Nerice Millet-Williams; Project Coordinator, University of Maryland Extension- Marylanders Online

About UME Marylanders Online

Marylanders Online is an initiative through the University of Maryland Extension (UME) and the College of Information (INFO) with support from state funding. The Marylanders Online program serves as an accessible digital literacy resource that is working to close the digital divide experienced by the millions of Maryland residents who lack access to the internet, a digital device, or the skills to utilize either. Through the provision of quality resources - from education and training to curricula and tech support - the mission of Marylanders Online is to promote digital literacy, equity, and inclusion throughout the state of Maryland.

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