

Harnessing the digital transformation of health promotion and disease prevention: a public health perspective

Stefania Boccia

*Section of Hygiene-Institute of Public Health
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore,
Fondazione Policlinico "A. Gemelli" IRCCS, Rome, Italy*

*Coordinator of European network staff eXchange for integrAting precision health
in the health Care sysTems (ExACT)*

President, Public Health Epidemiology Section, EUPHA



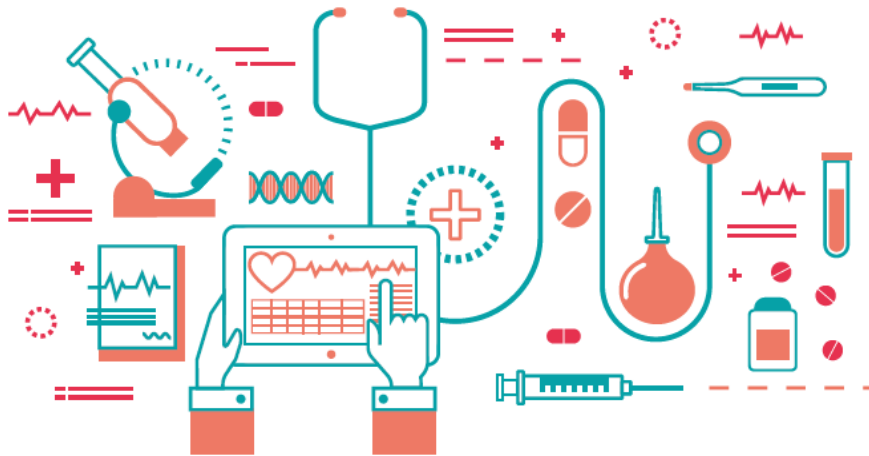
**The state of health in the EU and the
digitalisation of health promotion
Brussels, January, 22nd, 2019**



The perspective

“Digital transformation brings the potential to impact healthcare in ways that may contribute to health system goals”

to-reach
transferring innovation in health systems



TO-REACH is focused on **setting out clearly** what needs to be done in terms of the **future Health Services and Systems Research agenda**



Public health digitalization in Europe

EUPHA vision, action and role in digital public health

Anna Odone^{1,2}, Stefan Buttigieg^{2,3}, Walter Ricciardi^{2,4}, Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat^{2,5}, Anthony Staines⁶

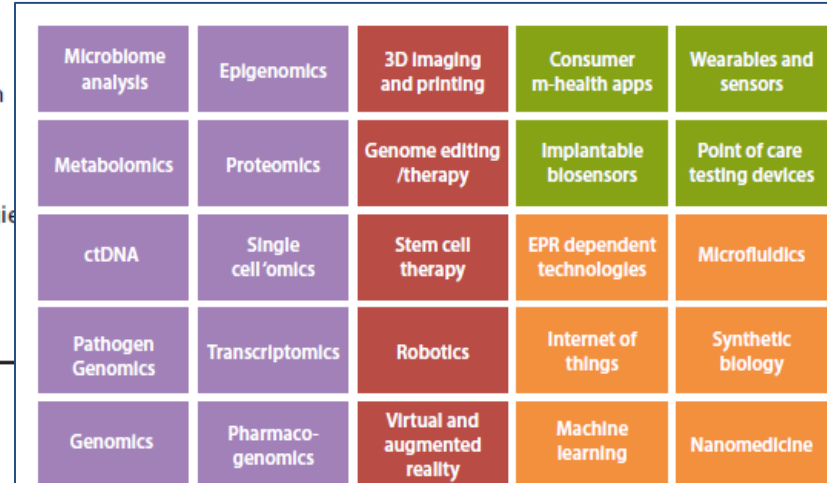
European Journal of Public Health, Vol. 29, Supplement 3, 28–35

© The Author(s) 2019. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the European Public Health Association.

Table 1 The potential added value of digitalization for public health: a conceptual framework

Public health Pillars	Public health Domains	Digital Health Technologies ^a	Features	Potential Public health Benefits and advantages
Practice	Health prevention	Genomics	Personalization and Precision	Shift from cure to prevention
Research	Health communication	Telehealth	Automation	Care closer to people
Training and Education	Health education	Smartphone apps (MHEALTH)	Prediction	People-centered care
Policy	Health promotion	Social media	Data analytics (incl. Big Data, data transfer and interoperability)	Safer, faster and more efficient services
	Health services organization, management and delivery	Wearables and sensors	Interaction	Less expensive care
	Epidemiology and control of communicable diseases	Virtual and augmented reality		
	Risk management, hospital hygiene and safety	Drones		
	Epidemiology and control of non-communicable diseases	Internet of things		
	Food safety	Big data		
	Environmental health	Artificial intelligence (incl. predictive analytics, speech recognition and natural language processing)		
	Surveillance analysis and reporting	Robotics		
	Impact assessment monitoring and evaluation	Distributed ledger technologies		

Note: ^aRefer to Supplementary appendix S1 for definitions.



- Technologies for greater molecular level characterisation
- Technologies for personalised therapeutic interventions
- Technologies for personalised disease and health monitoring
- Underpinning and enabling technologies

Evidences on effectiveness of mHealth Interventions-I



ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Report of the
Expert Panel on effective ways of
investing in Health (EXPH)

JMIR Mhealth Uhealth 2018 | vol. 6 | iss. 1 | e23 | p. 1

Marcolino et al

Review

The Impact of mHealth Interventions: Systematic Review of Systematic Reviews

Milena Soriano Marcolino¹, MD, MSc, PhD; João Antonio Queiroz Oliveira¹, PharmD, MSc; Marcelo D'Agostino², MSc; Antonio Luiz Ribeiro¹, MD, PhD; Maria Beatriz Moreira Alkmim¹, MD, MSc; David Novillo-Ortiz², MLIS, MSc, PhD

- 23 reviews included, of which the majority were judged as low quality
- Moderate quality evidence of improvement in asthma patients, in attendance rates, and **increased smoking abstinence rates**
- Evidence for efficacy is overall limited especially in the field of health promotion and prevention
- Low-income studies under represented
- No long term studies

Economic evaluations of mHealth Interventions

PLOS ONE | DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0170581 February 2, 2017

RESEARCH ARTICLE

What is the economic evidence for mHealth?
A systematic review of economic evaluations
of mHealth solutions

Sarah J. Iribarren^{1*}, Kenrick Cato^{2,3}, Louise Falzon⁴, Patricia W. Stone^{2,5}

- 39 studies included, of which many did not report all recommended economic outcome items and were lacking in comprehensive analysis
- In 29 studies (74.3%), researchers reported that the mHealth intervention was cost-effective, economically beneficial, or cost saving at base case
- Low-income studies are under represented
- Established economic reporting guidelines are needed to improve this body of research



In the foreseeable future, information from an individual's DNA sequence will become part of their medical record and used to inform their healthcare in many different ways throughout their life course."

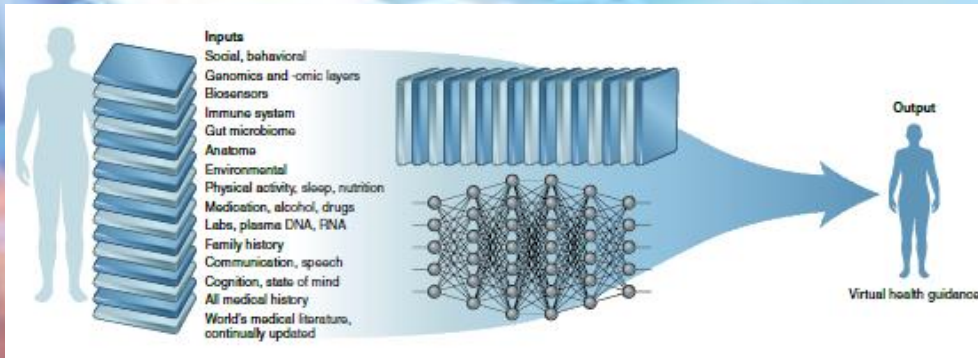
Sir Nilesh Samani

Personalised healthcare: bringing the future into focus

Final report, April 2017

Alison Hall and Leila Luheshi

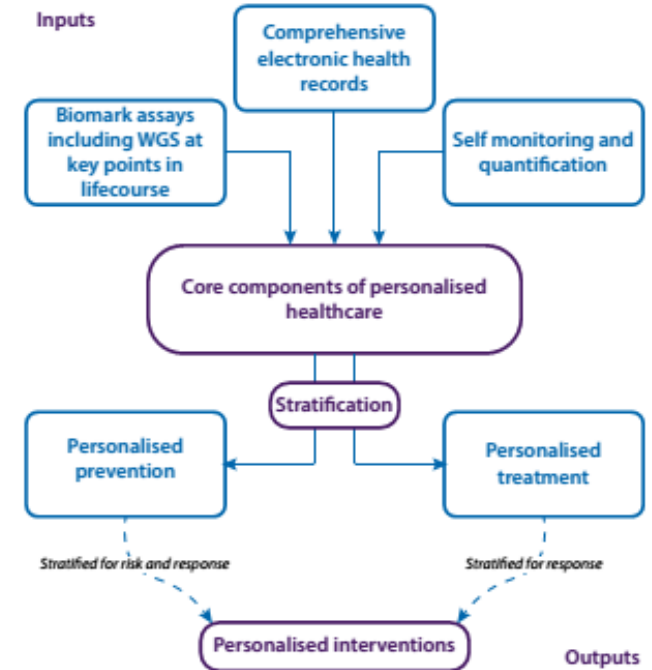
Signatories: Prof. Bartha Maria Knoppers, Dr Eric Meslin, Prof. Walter Ricciardi, Dr Ron Zimmern



2. Imagining future health

2.1 What could personalised healthcare look like?

At the outset of the meeting the delegates considered what the key features and attributes of a more personalised approach to health might be. These are summarised in the graphic below.



European Journal of Public Health, Vol. 27, Supplement 4, 2017, 36-39

© The Author 2017. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the European Public Health Association. All rights reserved.
doi:10.1093/eurpub/ckx164

New challenges of public health: bringing the future of personalised healthcare into focus

Walter Ricciardi^{1,2}, Stefania Boccia¹

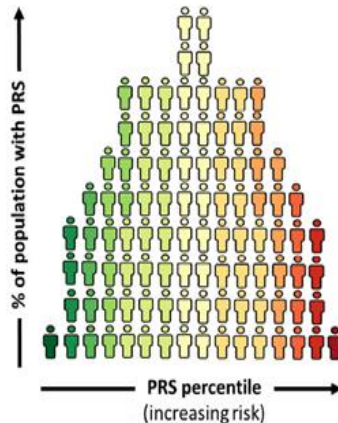
Polygenic Risk Scores (PRS) and Public Health

“The use of polygenic scores for common disease risk assessment is an important area of development for public health and warrants close attention”

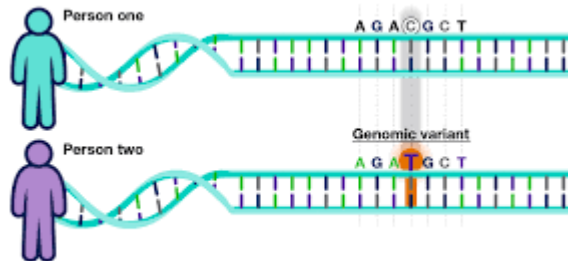
“Looking ahead, predictive prevention may well become an increasingly important part of our wider efforts to prevent disease and preserve health. It seems likely that polygenic scores will have a role to play in these approaches at some point, but there is still a good deal to learn about how to maximise benefits for public health. We need to be very clear about the nature of the evidence so far for using such scores and the implications of doing so”

PRS Distribution

PRS percentile	Risk of disease vs. reference group
0-1	Lowest
1-5	
5-10	
10-20	
20-40	
40-60 (reference)	1
60-80	Highest
80-90	
90-95	
95-99	
99-100	



Source: RGA



Professor John Newton, Director of Health Improvement, Public Health England

PRS to support health promotion

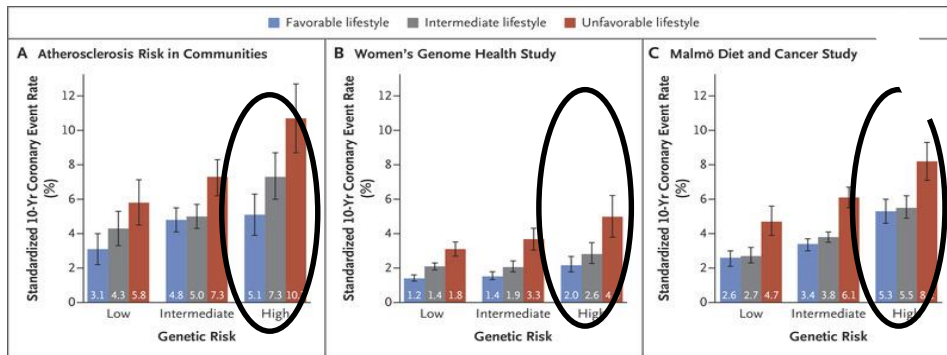
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Genetic Risk, Adherence to a Healthy Lifestyle, and Coronary Disease

Amit V. Khera, M.D., Connor A. Emdin, D.Phil., Isabel Drake, Ph.D., Pradeep Natarajan, M.D., Alexander G. Bick, M.D., Ph.D., Nancy R. Cook, Ph.D., Daniel I. Chasman, Ph.D., Usman Baber, M.D., Roxana Mehran, M.D., Daniel J. Rader, M.D., Valentin Fuster, M.D., Ph.D., Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D., Olle Melander, M.D., Ph.D., Marju Orho-Melander, Ph.D., Paul M. Ridker, M.D., and Sekar Kathiresan, M.D.

N ENGL J MED 375;24 NEJM.ORG DECEMBER 15, 2016



«The expectation is that the disclosure of the genetic risk may motivate behavioural changes»

- Using a PRS authors quantified the genetic risk for coronary heart disease in 3 large cohorts of healthy subjects
- Adherence to healthy lifestyles was measured using a score system of 4 factors: no smoking, no obesity, regular PA, and healthy diet
- Those with a high genetic risk score had an increased risk of coronary events in 10-years (6-11%)
- Those with a favourable lifestyle profile had a lower risk of coronary heart events (1-5%), regardless of the genetic risk category
- In the high genetic risk group there was the highest impact of favourable lifestyles, being able to almost halve the absolute 10-years risk in the 3 cohorts

PRS to support therapeutic prevention

Circulation. 2017;135:2091–2101. DOI: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.116.024436

Polygenic Risk Score Identifies Subgroup With Higher Burden of Atherosclerosis and Greater Relative Benefit From Statin Therapy in the Primary Prevention Setting

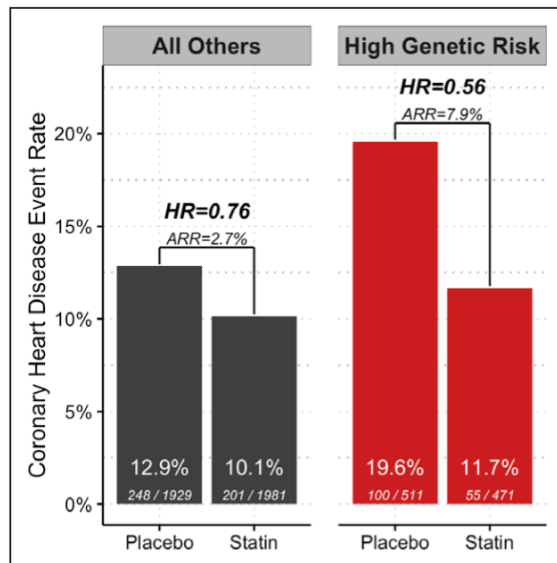


Figure 1. Incident coronary heart disease events by statin therapy and genetic risk group in WOSCOPS (West of Scotland Coronary Prevention Study).

- In analyses of 2 former randomized controlled primary prevention trials (ASCOT and JUPITER, subjects with high cholesterol level and no prior infarction) the statin therapy led to a greater relative risk reduction among a subgroup at high genetic risk of coronary heart disease
- In this additional randomized controlled primary prevention trial authors confirmed that those at high genetic risk derive greater benefit from statin therapy to prevent a first coronary heart disease event

PRS- informed disease screening

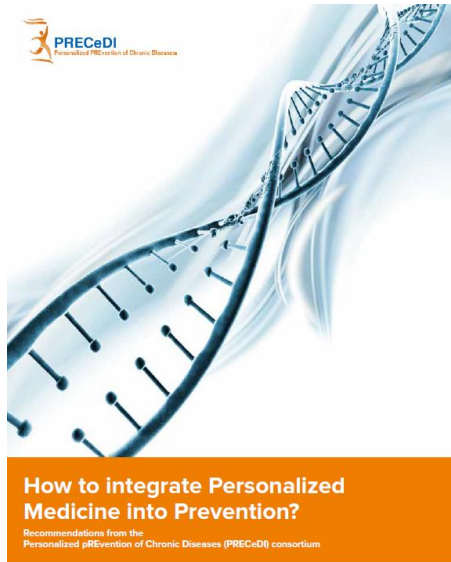
Polygenic Risk Scores for Prediction of Breast Cancer and Breast Cancer Subtypes

The American Journal of Human Genetics 104, 21–34, January 3, 2019



- Authors developed a PRS from the largest available GWAs of almost 100,000 cases and controls, and validated in two prospective studies
- Women with high PRS for breast cancer can reach the same risk of a 50 years old woman many years before, while at the same time women with low PRS reach the risk of a 50 years old woman at more than 70 years of age.

The Personalized Prevention of Chronic Disease (PRECeDI) Recommendations








Directed to policy-makers, scientists, industry, and citizens aiming to foster the integration of PM approaches in the field of chronic disease prevention

<http://www.precedi.eu/site/index.php>

Boccia S et al, Public Health Genomics 2019

The PRECeDI project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme MSCA-RISE-2014: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) under the grant agreement N°645740.



PRECeDI Domains	PRECeDI Recommendations
 <p>Domain 1: Identification of biomarkers for the prevention of chronic disease.</p>	<p>R1. Personalized interventions for the prevention of chronic diseases require robust evidence of efficacy and/or effectiveness of the new technology when implemented in health care.</p>
 <p>Domain 2: Economic evaluation of predictive genomic applications.</p>	<p>R2. In addition to what reported in R1, a comprehensive evaluation of the value (outcomes/cost) of the new technology should also include evidence on the social aspects, and context-related dimensions to better support the clinical decision-making process. Genetic or genomic applications with evidence of efficacy, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness should be implemented in clinical and public health practice.</p>
 <p>Domain 3: Ethico-legal and policy issues surrounding personalized medicine.</p>	<p>R3. The era of genomics requires that we clarify and validate the obligations and responsibilities of the research community, research participants, and the general public including patients through collaboration and dissemination of high-quality ethical, policy and legal analysis.</p>
 <p>Domain 4: Sociotechnical analysis of the pros and cons of informing healthy individuals on their genome.</p>	<p>R4. A dedicated effort is necessary to stimulate further implementation of evidence-based interventions in health care, such as testing of family members in cases of hereditary cancers or cardiovascular diseases.</p>
 <p>Domain 5: Identification of organizational models for the provision of predictive genomic applications.</p>	<p>R5. The integration of genomic sciences in other medical specialties should be promoted through new delivery models involving different healthcare professionals and new professional roles, in order to guarantee the use and sustainability of existing and new genomic applications in practice.</p>

Conclusion: Key drivers for and requisites to harness digital tools for personalized healthcare



1. Establishing the critical digital Infrastructure
2. Training the workforce
3. Citizens awareness
4. Secure safeguarded systems to protect data as a central issue to fostering patients and citizens trust in data sharing

<https://www.phgfoundation.org/research/my-healthy-future>

This block contains a collage of four reports and publications:

- Future of Digital Health Systems:** A report on the WHO Symposium on the Future of Digital Health Systems in the European Region, published by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA).
- Public health digitalization in Europe:** A report titled 'EUPHA vision, action and role in digital public health' by Anna Odone^{1,2}, Stefan Buttigieg^{2,3}, Walter Ricciardi^{2,4}, Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat^{2,5}, and Anthony Staines⁵. It is published in the *European Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 29, Supplement 3, 28-35, © The Author(s) 2019.
- State of Health in the EU Companion Report 2019:** A report from the European Commission, featuring the EU flag and a circular logo with a red arrow.
- Everything you always wanted to know about European Union health policies but were afraid to ask:** A report from the European Commission, featuring a blue background with a grid of yellow and blue squares. It is the Revised 2nd Edition.