

# Digital health ethics: what's next?

Organized by the Health Ethics & Policy Lab,  
Department of Health Sciences and Technology, ETH  
Zurich.

Friday, September 7th 2018, ETH Zurich



## Location

Universitätstrasse 2, LFW C 4  
8092 Zürich, Switzerland

### How to get to ETH Zurich by public transport

The main building of ETH Zurich can be reached from:

- Zurich main station by tram 6 (direction "Zoo") or by tram 10 (direction "Zürich Flughafen")
- Bellevue by tram 9 (direction "Hirzenbach")
- Central by cable car "Polybahn"

### Further information

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[www.bioethics.ethz.ch](http://www.bioethics.ethz.ch)

<https://www.digitaethics.ch> →

# Digital health ethics: what's next?

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As our society becomes increasingly –nearly pervasively– digitalized, data from all aspects of our lives can become relevant to our health. Google searches, Facebook likes, Tweets, FitBit records, GPS traces, smartphone swipes, gym subscriptions, credit card transactions: all these heterogeneous and differently structured data sources, if adequately aggregated and analyzed, can reveal something important about our health. This convergence of digital technologies with health and healthcare is called “Digital Health” and this is likely to be the future of health and healthcare. For the more data we collect (aka big data), the more information we can extract from them. As the distinction between the medical and the non-medical blurs, it becomes unclear how traditional mechanisms of medical ethics such as informed consent and ethics review will work in the growing big data ecosystem.

What does informed consent look like in digital health research? How should ethics review committees assess big data studies? What are the promises and challenges of using novel sources of medical information? What is the impact of digital health on global health? To explore these critical questions, the Health Ethics and Policy Lab at ETH Zurich is organizing on September 7, 2018 a public event that brings together leading international experts on the ethics of digital health.

## Registration:

Attendance is free but registration is required. To register, please email: christian.rossi@hest.ethz.ch).

More information can be found here: <https://www.digitaletics.ch> →

## Program

### What are the ethical challenges associated with digital health?

Advances in big data analytics and the ubiquitous availability of health-related data collection points raise challenges for pivotal ethical notions such as informed consent, privacy and patient autonomy. Will traditional ethical principles survive the digital era?

- 10:30 am Prof. Effy Vayena, Chair of Bioethics and Head of the Health Ethics & Policy Lab, ETH Zurich (Switzerland)
- 10:45 am Prof. Jeffrey Kahn, Director of the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University (USA)
- 11:15 am Prof. Samia Hurst, Institute for Ethics, History and the Humanities, University of Geneva (Switzerland)
- 11:45 pm Presentation of the Health Data Ethics Map

**12.00 pm Lunch**

### What are the governance challenges?

Besides ethics, digital health poses new challenges for health and technology governance. Are current governance tools well suited to oversee the ever-evolving digital health ecosystem? Do we need new oversight mechanisms?

- 13:00 pm Dr. Alessandro Blasimme, Health Ethics & Policy Lab, ETH Zurich (Switzerland)
- 13:30 pm Dr. Gabrielle Samuel, Department of Global Health & Social Medicine, Kings College London (UK)
- 14:00 pm Dr. Elettra Ronchi, Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD)

**14.30 pm Coffee & tea break**

### A roadmap ahead for bioethics and policy

The questions addressed in the first two sessions will be the starting point of a panel discussion on the future of bioethics and health policy in the digital era.

- 15:00 pm Panel discussion chaired by Prof. Effy Vayena. Panelists: Jeffrey Kahn, Samia Hurst, Elettra Ronchi & Diana Zandi (WHO)
- 16:00 pm Visit of the Digital Health Ethics Platform