Guest Editorial

The **International Congress DigiHealthDayS-2025**, held at the European Campus Rottal-Inn (ECRI), Deggendorf Institute of Technology, once again served as a Global Forum for Education, Research, Innovation, and Networking in Digital Health. Under the overarching theme *"Global Digital Health – today, tomorrow, and beyond"*, this 6th edition brought together leaders, experts, and students from across the world. Participants engaged in a unique convergence of perspectives with keynote addresses from eminent speakers, thought-provoking student presentations, and lively dialogue sessions.

Featured Papers

The four selected papers in this year's collection span three thematic areas: Digital Health innovation and entrepreneurship, AI research, and electronic health records (EHR) and health information systems.

Opening the section on *Digital Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship* is a bibliometric and systematic review of articles that examine why so many digital health solutions fail to progress beyond the pilot stage. Research focus has shifted from foundational technologies such as telemedicine toward strategic dimensions such as value creation, data privacy, and health policy, yet reimbursement, cost structure, licensing, and customer relationships remain underexplored. The authors identify a structural gap: value creation is well developed, but the financial and regulatory mechanisms for sustainable implementation are not.

A complementary systematic review of design methodologies asks a question that precedes any business model: is the right problem being solved? Most studies applied human-centered or participatory design, but focused on solution refinement and usability testing rather than early-stage problem discovery, rarely considering regulatory, data, and interoperability constraints. The authors call for an early-stage instrument linking problem discovery and evidence synthesis.

In *AI Research*, a comparative study tests whether ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot can detect seven types of data quality errors, from inconsistent gender labels and implausible BMI values to duplicates and date format errors. Performance varied by error type: all three models flagged extreme outliers, but none was reliable for semantic normalization, clinical plausibility checks, or missing data, and some outputs were hallucinated. LLMs can assist rapid screening, but human-in-the-loop verification and deterministic validation rules remain essential.

Under *EHR and Health Information Systems*, a scoping review from the German Virtual Reality Multidisciplinary Tumor Board (VR-MTB) project, maps tumor board practice across studies. Conventional boards are hampered by fragmented data, time pressure, and poor interoperability. Virtual boards gained traction during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet extended reality (XR) and AI tools still face integration, resource, and usability barriers despite promising pilots. Standardized processes, stakeholder engagement, and integration with hospital systems are identified as prerequisites for digital transformation.

Together, these papers trace a common thread: Digital Health innovation succeeds not through technology alone, but through careful problem framing, sustainable financial and regulatory models, trustworthy data, and seamless integration into clinical workflows.

Reflections and Perspectives on Digital Health

The two commentaries in this issue capture discussions held at DigiHealthDayS-2025, illustrating the event's role as a forum for critical reflection and exchange.

The first commentary argues that usage is not understanding: patients and citizens are too often framed as users of technology rather than as competent actors. Using the metaphor of *"the hen and the egg"*, it describes how patient- and citizen-led initiatives can close the circle from understanding data to building digital competence, integrating health, data, and digital literacy. Audience reflections revealed persistent gaps in awareness and trust despite high access and usage, positioning digital literacy as a shared societal responsibility.

The second commentary reports on the panel *"Generative AI in the Clinic – Hype, Hope, and Reality"*, where four experts in medical innovation, patient advocacy, regulation, and academic evidence examined the actual state of generative AI in medical practice, separating realistic expectations from inflated claims.

Together, these commentaries remind us that the success of Digital Health depends as much on people as on technology: on the literacy and trust of patients and citizens, and on a sober, evidence-based assessment of what new tools such as generative AI can and cannot yet deliver.

As this special issue illustrates, DigiHealthDayS-2025 was once again not only a celebration of ideas but also a platform for action. We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, partners, and the vibrant DigiHealthDay community for their support. Looking ahead, we remain inspired by the vision that drives DigiHealthDay, that is, to create a Digital Health future that is smarter, fairer, and more human-centered.

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