

Leading digital health alliances announce partnership to support inaugural World of Health IT hosted by HIMSS Europe

Berlin, 3rd August 2016: The European Connected Health Alliance (ECHAlliance) and Personal Connected Health Alliance (PCHA) have signed a pivotal agreement to deliver key programme elements for the inaugural World of Health IT (WoHIT) event being held by HIMSS Europe.

As part of the agreement, ECHAlliance and PCHA will provide support in developing the topics, speakers and sessions addressing changing needs of the eHealth community. Innovative content will focus on critical areas in healthcare including cybersecurity, genomics, mHealth as well as relevant programmes for CIOs and the HIMSS Europe Communities.

The ECHAlliance has a long history of supporting key stakeholders in digital health to overcome the challenges facing wider adoption of innovative technology in healthcare. PCHA, a strategic business unit of HIMSS, works collaboratively with health, technology and life sciences, public policy, research and advocacy groups to support a new norm of personal health engagement, positive behaviour change and improved wellbeing and health outcomes.

Stephen Bryant, Managing Director of HIMSS Europe: “HIMSS Europe is squarely focused on providing everyone in the evolving health and care ecosystem with the content and information they need to transform health and care using IT. This strategic agreement will be instrumental in ensuring that every single individual - from clinician to researchers to IT managers - comes away from the WoHIT with the knowledge they need to tackle their everyday task and challenges.”

WoHIT, which is expected to be one of the annual, largest, most influential and innovative Pan-European eHealth events, is taking place in Barcelona on 21st-22nd November 2016.

Brian O’Connor, Chair of the ECHAlliance added: “The agreement demonstrates a resounding commitment amongst the partners to facilitate international, multi-stakeholder connections around ecosystems to drive sustainable change and disruption in the delivery of health and social care. In addition to developing the programme, the ECHAlliance looks forward to bringing a significant audience to WoHIT to ensure even wider participation and knowledge sharing amongst the key issues.”

Rich Scarfo, Vice President of PCHA said: “The PCHA is focused on driving the agenda, creating an evidence base and mobilising collective action to achieve personal connected health for all. Our members focused on medical-grade interoperability and publication of the Continua Design Guidelines have been working closely with countries throughout the EU to advance the European eHealth agenda. Early results of the HIMSS Europe Annual Survey, which will be released World of Health IT, indicate that patient empowerment is one of the biggest challenges, so there is no better time to integrate these key topics into the programme.”

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Editors' notes

For more information or to request an interview, please contact Inés Burton, marketing manager, HIMSS Europe iburton@himss.org +49 (0) 30467777332

About HIMSS Europe

HIMSS Europe is a voice, advisor and thought leader of transformation through health IT. As an independent organisation with innovation at its heart, HIMSS Europe unites and engages key stakeholders across the health and care ecosystem through events, media, analytics and communities that are focused on helping healthcare systems to define their IT strategies meanwhile supporting the healthcare industry to improve its services. By offering a high quality, Pan-European platform to collaborate and exchange best practice, news, information and data, HIMSS Europe has a unique breadth and depth of expertise and capabilities to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of health and care and deliver more effective patient outcomes. Founded in 1961, HIMSS encompasses more than 60,000 members, 600 companies and over one million HIT network of key influencers that drive innovation across the world. www.himss.eu

About European Connected Health Alliance

[European Connected Health Alliance](http://www.echalliance.com) (ECHAlliance) is the trusted connector, facilitating multi-stakeholder connections around ecosystems, driving sustainable change and disruption in the delivery of health and social care. Our community gathers 500+ member organisations and 15,000+ experts: governments, health & social care providers, leading companies and start-ups, researchers, insurances, patients & citizens, investors... through ecosystems meetings (100+ per year), international events and our online platform "Connector". Active in 25+ regions/countries (Europe, USA, Canada, China), the ECHAlliance members develop innovative solutions around mobile Health, chronic diseases, active & healthy ageing, Internet of Things, wearables, personalised medicine, genomics and big data www.echalliance.com

About Personal Connected Health Alliance

The [Personal Connected Health Alliance](http://www.pchalliance.org) (PCHA) works collaboratively with health, technology and life sciences, public policy, research and advocacy groups to support a new norm of personal health engagement, positive behavior change and improved wellbeing and health outcomes. PCHA is focused on driving the agenda, creating an evidence base and mobilizing collective action to achieve personal connected health for all. PCHA hosts the annual [Connected Health Conference](http://www.pchalliance.org), an international forum and expo for networking and showcasing advancements in research, innovations and opportunities in personal connected health. PCHA is a division of [HIMSS](http://www.himss.org) and home to [Continua](http://www.continua.com), which publishes the annual Continua Design Guidelines. Continua is recognized as the international standard for user friendly end-to-end interoperability of personal connected health devices and systems. www.pchalliance.org