

AI4HealthyCities Dialogues unveils 12 policy recommendations for using AI to transform urban health.

New Cities and the Novartis Foundation have unveiled the AI4HealthyCities Dialogues, a platform for city and regional authorities from across the globe to share experiences, challenges, and best practices for how data and AI can improve the health of urban populations.

The pioneering participants include the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of Québec, Canada, the Secretariat of Economic Development of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, and the Ministry and Secretariat of International Relations from both governments. Together, they crystalized their best practices into a set of 12 practical policy recommendations for using AI to transform urban health, which have been published today.

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The AI4HealthyCities initiative has been a fantastic opportunity for us and the State of São Paulo to deepen our collaboration in Artificial Intelligence and Life Sciences, which are areas of excellence common to our two territories. We are convinced that this initiative will greatly benefit other states and cities and contribute to the pooling of our knowledge to better tackle, together, the health and wellbeing of urban populations.

Jason Naud,
Government of Québec.

The State of São Paulo values innovation and entrepreneurship and is strongly committed to a sustainability-led investment strategy, with urban health and public policies to ensure a better quality of life for its nearly 46 million population. Both governments have a strong relationship and a long history of cooperation, and AI4HealthyCities contributed to new collaborations, discussing best practices to accelerate the implementation of public policies.

Torquato Jardim,
Executive Vice-President of InvestSP.

The AI4HealthyCities Dialogues aims to create a sustainable coalition and long-term dialogue, expand to other geographies, and shift from government-only dialogues to include universities, civil society, and diverse stakeholders.

The [AI4HealthyCities: Recommendations for Using AI to Transform Urban Health](#) report outlines the key findings of the 2021 AI4HealthyCities Dialogues, highlighting case studies on the use of AI for improving urban health in addition to the 12 policy recommendations.

As Head of the Novartis Foundation, I express my sincere appreciation to the Governments of São Paulo and Québec for their generous participation. It has been an honor and true pleasure to facilitate this dialogue on AI, which allowed us to learn about the needs of today's cities and get inspired by your visions. I invite other cities to join the conversation on improving population health through data, digital and AI-driven innovation, and participate in our AI4HealthyCities dialogues.

*Ann Aerts,
Novartis Foundation*

We hope that the key learnings of this initiative help promote collaboration opportunities among cities and urban stakeholders to explore the potential of using Artificial Intelligence to build healthy and inclusive cities. The policy recommendations captured in this report represent what can be achieved by enabling interdisciplinary and meaningful conversations. We look forward to continuing this dialogue and involving more geographies in the future of the initiative!

*John Rossant,
NewCities*

The report also summarizes AI4HealthyCities Dialogues' scalable and replicable engagement model as a call to action for governments from around the globe to join the conversation. Further cities are joining a scaled-up dialogue series in 2022.

About Newcities

[NewCities](#) is an international non-profit organization based in Canada dedicated to making cities more resilient, connected, inclusive, and healthy. Focusing on people, places, and policies, its mission is to bring communities together to enable transformative processes and positive impact through tailored events, engagement opportunities, actionable research, and editorial features. The team currently concentrates on housing, transportation, and building resilience.

About the Novartis Foundation

[The Novartis Foundation](#) is a non-profit organization based in Switzerland. For over 40 years, we have helped improve the health of low-income populations, initially supporting disease elimination strategies in areas such as leprosy and malaria. Now, we help cities tackle the burning issues of our time, cardiovascular disease and health inequity. Cardiovascular disease takes almost 18 million lives each year, and its emergence as a key risk factor for COVID-19 complications brings added urgency to addressing it at a whole-of-population level.

We take a population health approach, which means widening the lens from a narrow focus on healthcare delivery to a panoramic vision of improving health in the population at large, ensuring access to healthy lives for all.

Our population health approach brings together disconnected data to create insights that help authorities understand the root causes of unequal health outcomes and find the best ways and best partners to remediate those. This empowers governments to re-engineer reactive care systems into true health systems that keep people healthy.

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Cities**