Building the Virtual Human Twin: from an engaged ecosystem to an incipient infrastructure

Liesbet Geris

University of Liège, KU Leuven & VPH institute, Belgium





The Virtual Human Twin







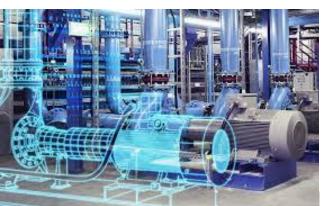
Digital Twins





DT = virtual representation of a physical object or system across its lifecycle. It uses <u>real-time data</u> and other sources to enable learning, reasoning, and <u>dynamically recalibrating</u> for monitoring, diagnostics and prognostics





Concept from Industry 4.0





Digital Twins in Healthcare





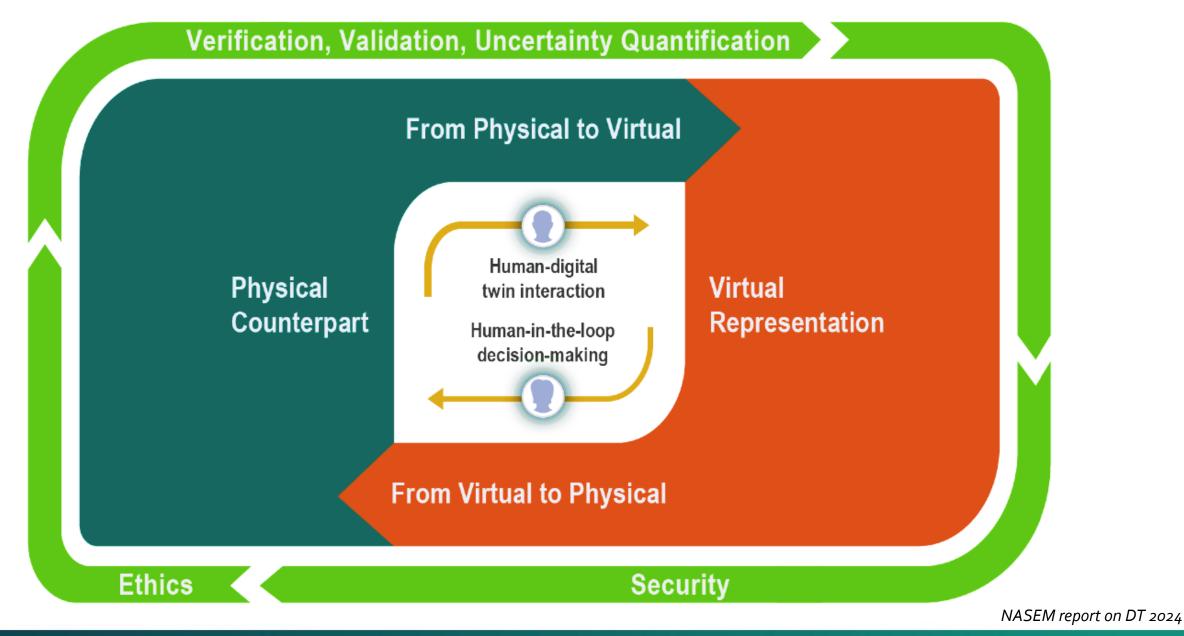
The direct use of individual-specific models for the prevention, prediction, screening, diagnosis and treatment of a disease, as well as the evaluation, optimization, selection and personalisation of intervention options





Consensus definition from EC workshop on human digital twin







Components of a Digital Twin



Hardware

Sensing Imaging Computing

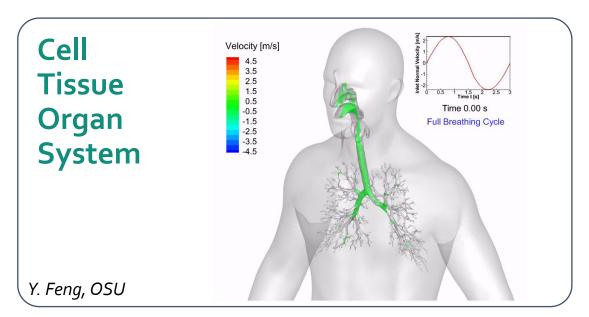
Middleware

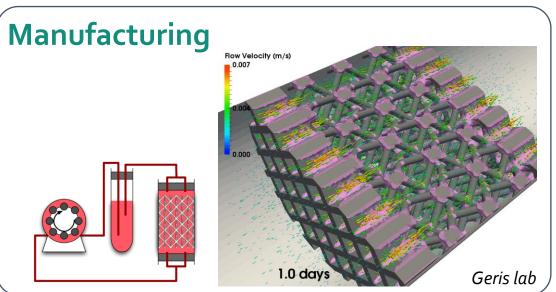
Integration Communication Management

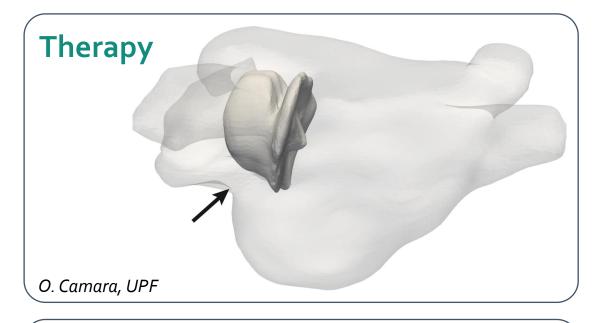
Software

Virtual twins Simulations (RT) analysis



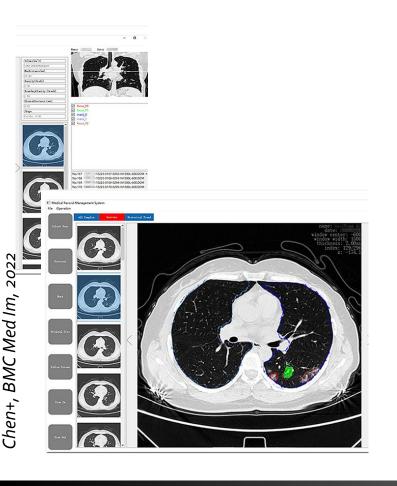


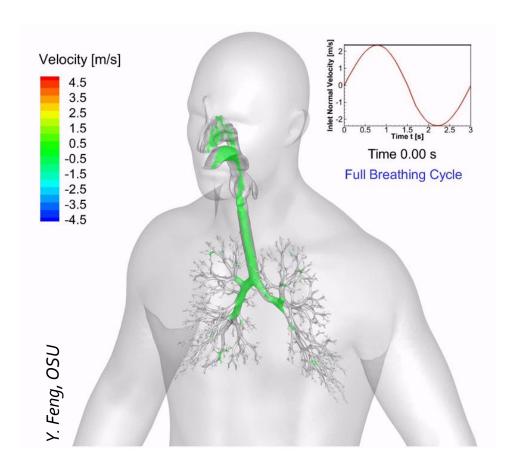


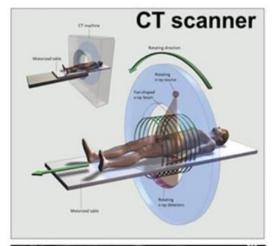




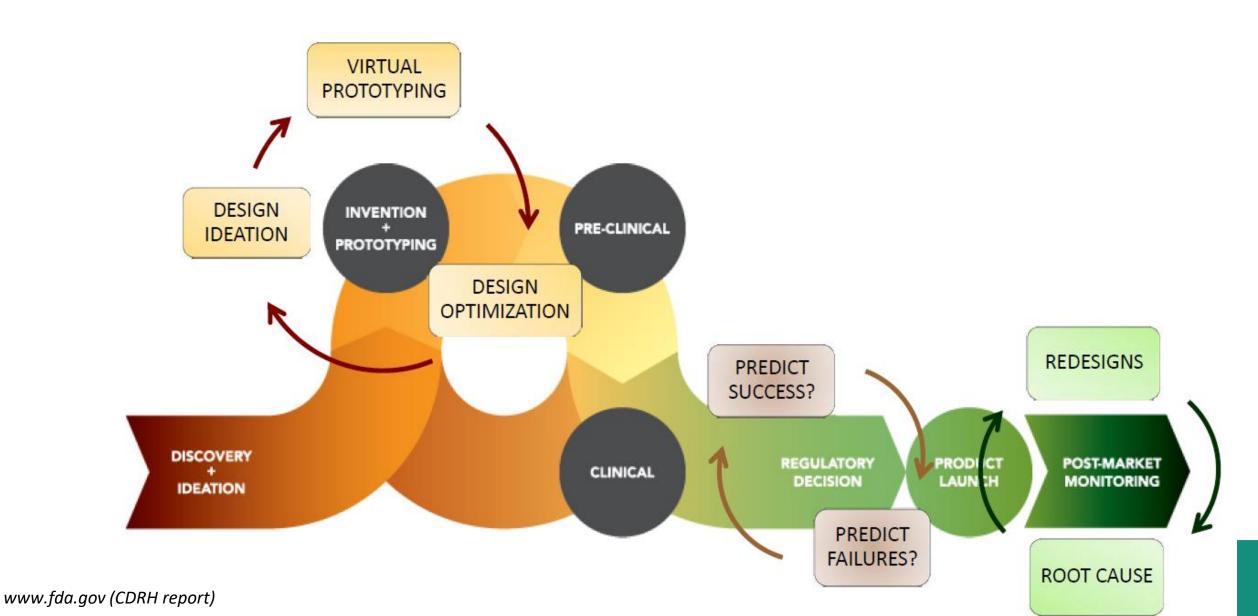
In Silico technologies for Digital Twins

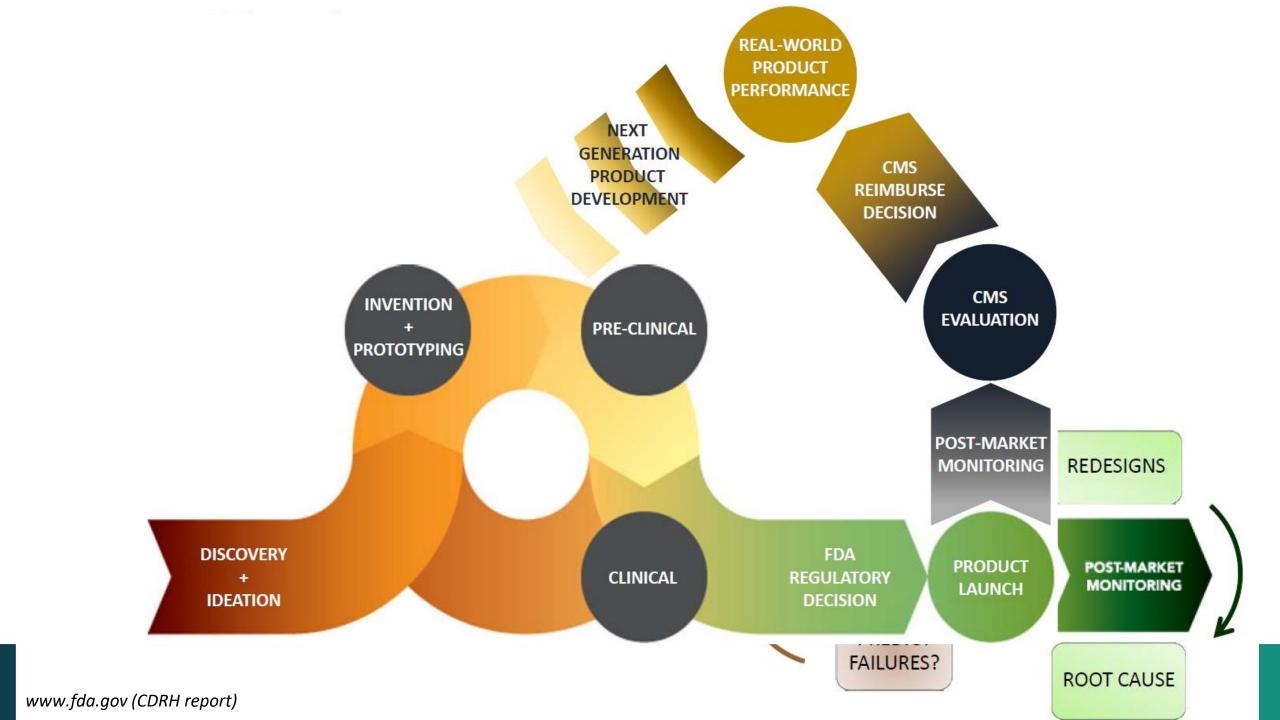








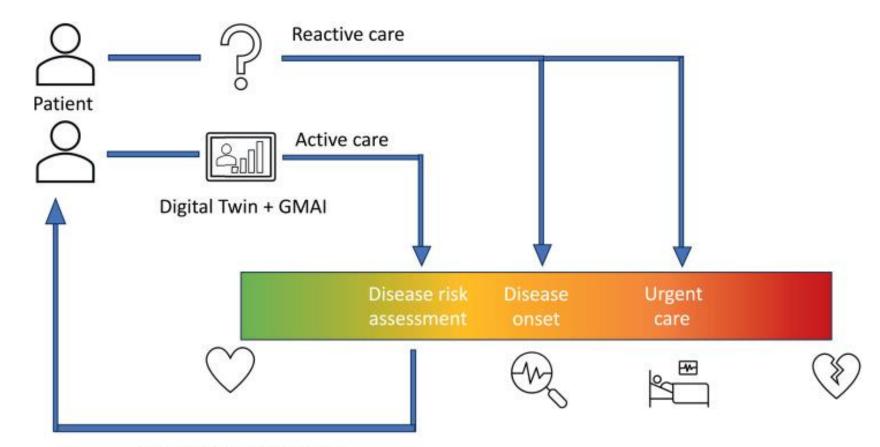








Example 1: MyDigitwin



V. Asselberghs, Amsterdam UMC

Promoting early disease detection and prevention

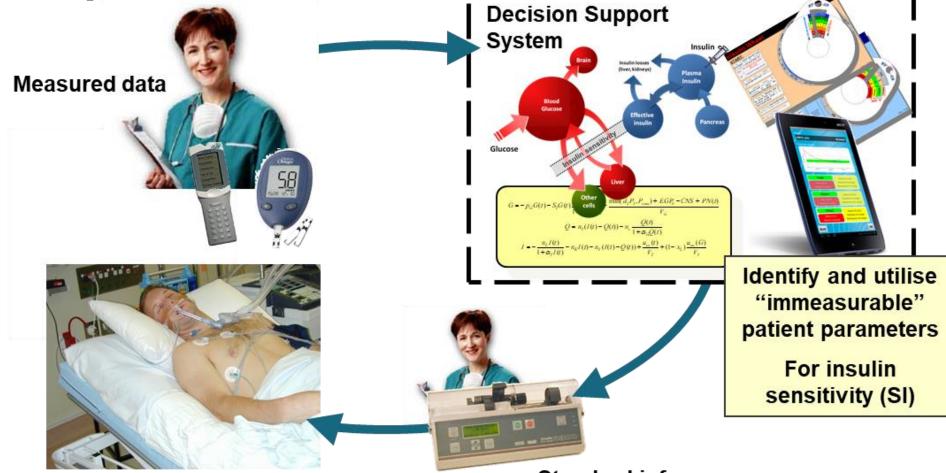
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hjc.2024.06.001



11

Example 2: ICU





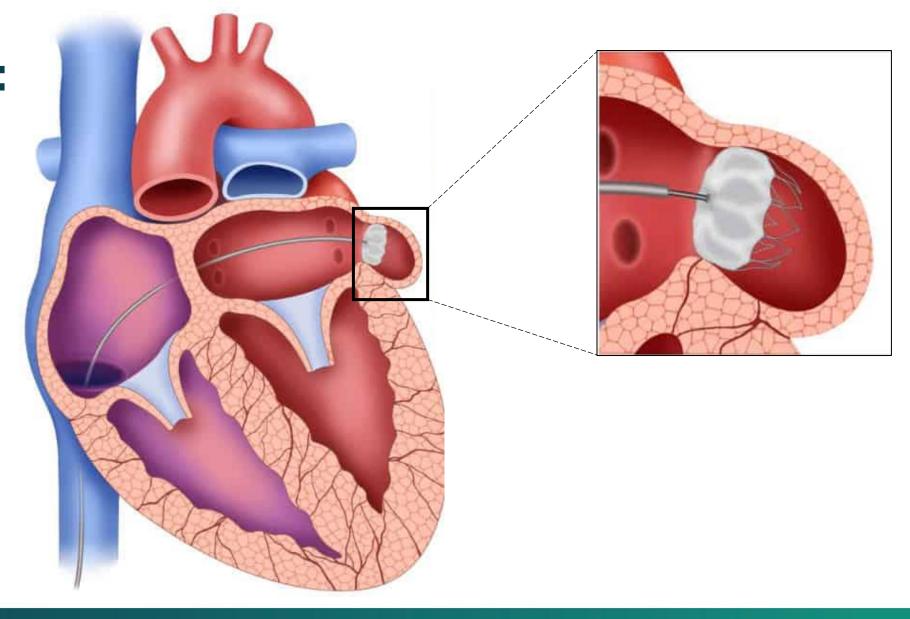
T. Desaive, U.Liège; V. Uyttendaele, InSiliCare

Patient management

Standard infuser equipment adjusted by nurses

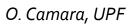


Example 3: LAAOD







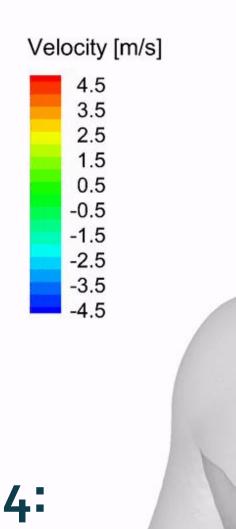


Inlet Normal Velocity [m/s]

1.5 Time t [s]

Time 0.00 s

Full Breathing Cycle

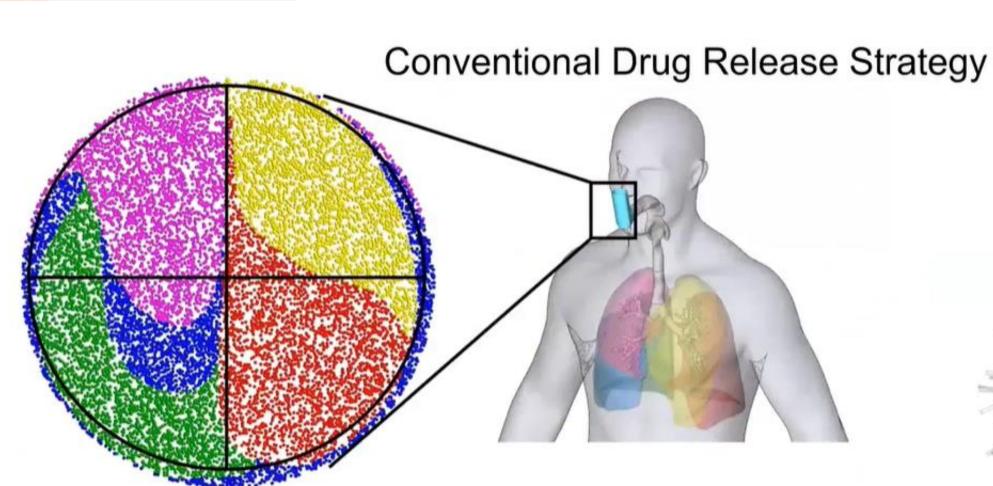


Example 4: Lung DT



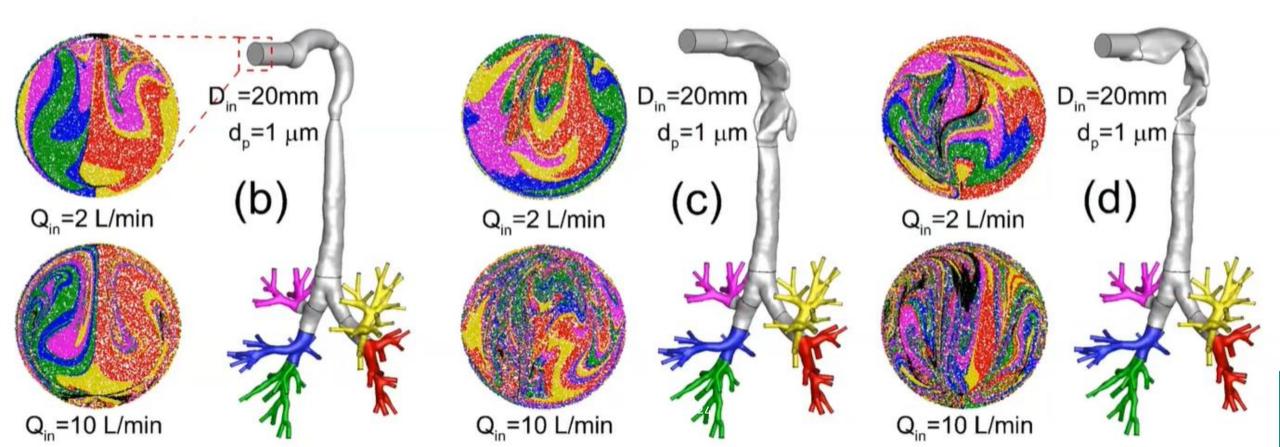








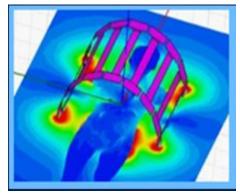




In silico clinical trials







2 years

Reduction of the number of patients involved in the clinical trial

S10M

Cost reduction due to the reduced number of patients

Number of patients treated during these 2 years with the product

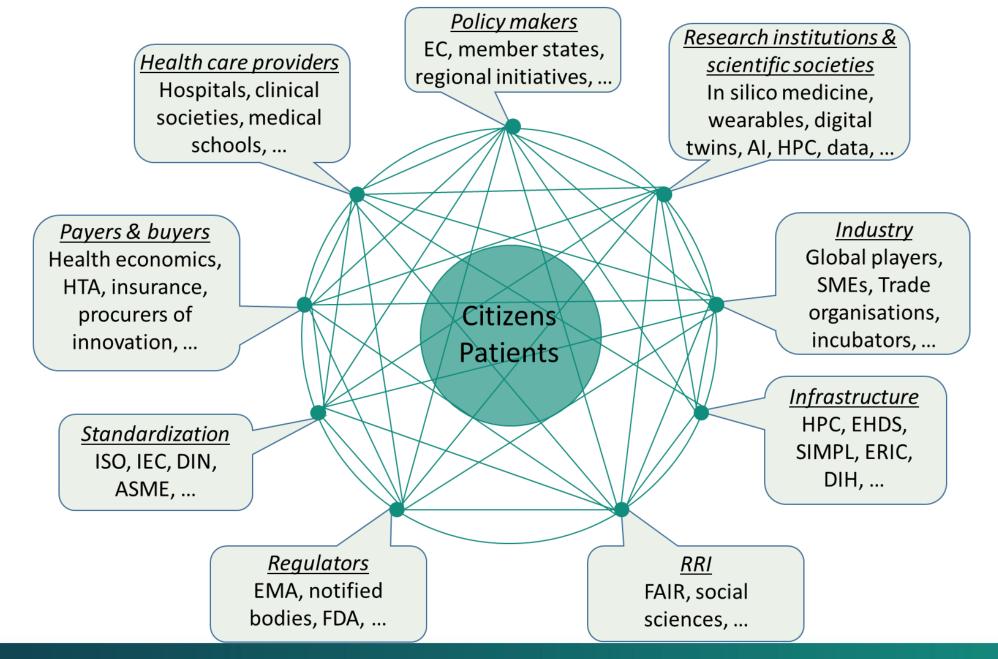
Courtesy of Medtronic

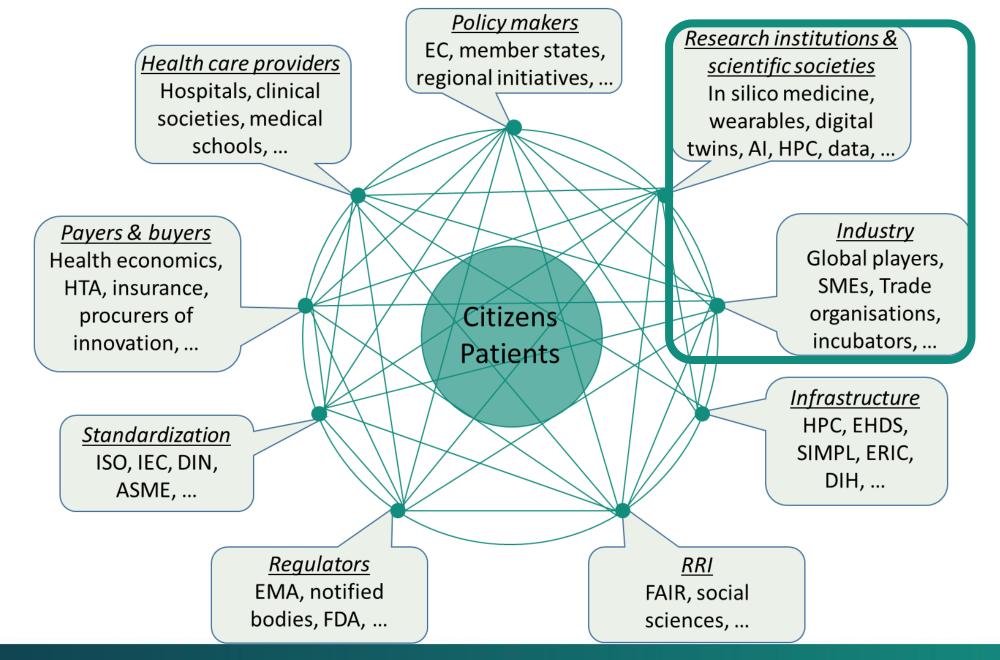


From an engaged ecosystem...









Important role for ecosystem organisations



Academia, HTA, hospitals

Policies

Incentives

Community

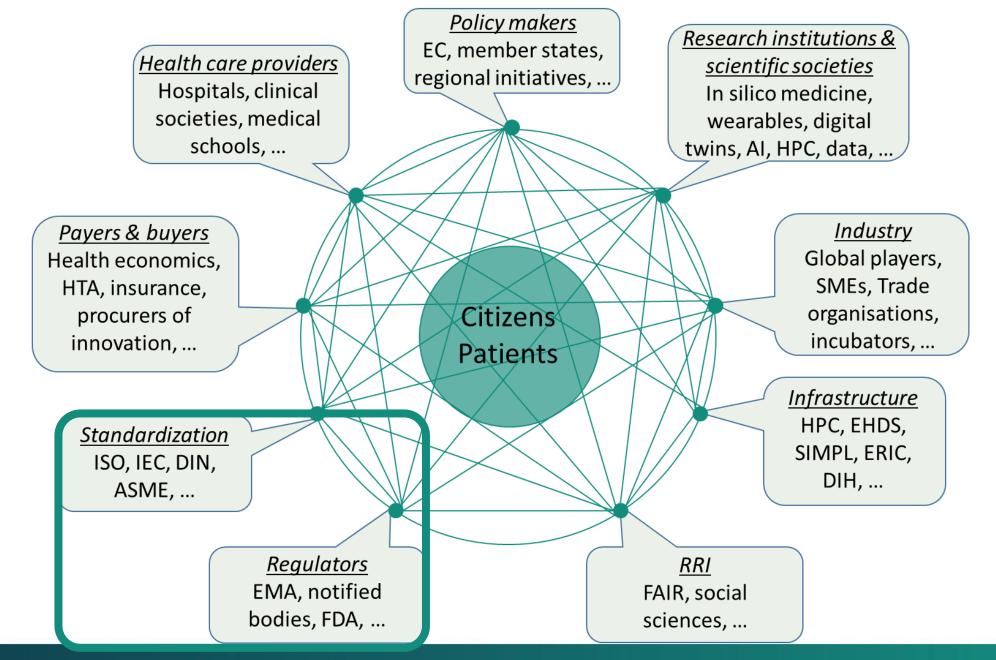
User experience

Technical implementation



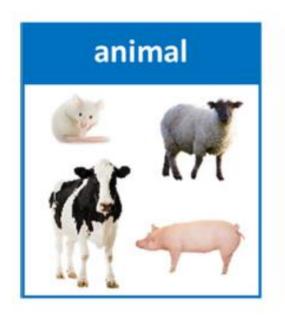
Avicenna Alliance
Association for Predictive Medicine

VPHi + industry



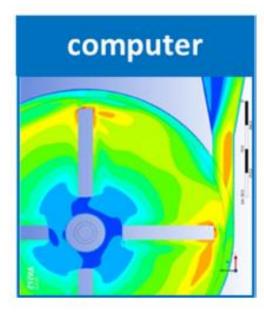
In silico medicine in regulatory science

Reduce, refine & replace traditional sources of evidence to establish safety and effectiveness









Tina Morrison, FDA



From the computer screen to the patient



Assessing Credibility of Computational Modeling Through Verification and Validation: Application to Medical Devices

AR INTERVATIONAL RESPONSE



COMMENTARY

Verifying and Validating Quantit Pharmacology and In Silico Mo Current Needs, Gaps, and Chal

Flora T. Musuamba^{1,2,3,*}, Roberta Bursi⁴, Efthymios Manolis^{1,5}, Kristir Jean-Pierre Boissel⁷, Raphaëlle Lesage ⁸, Cécile Crozatier⁹, Emmanue Rossana Alessandrello¹¹ and Liesbet Geris^{8,12}

The added value of in silico models (including quantitative systems pharmacology models) for drug development is now unanimously recognized. It is, therefore, important that the standards used are commonly acknowledged

CPT: Pharmacometrics & Systems Pharmacology

ARTICLE Open Access () ()

Citation: CPT Pharmacometrics Syst. Pharmacol. (2020) 9, 195-197; doi:10.1002/psp4.12504

Scientific and regulatory evaluation of mechanistic in silico drug and disease models in drug development: building model credibility



Rossana Alessandrello, Nuno Curado, Enrico Dall'ara. Geris ... See fewer authors ^

0.1002/psp4.12669

undergone full peer review but has not been through freading process, which may lead to differences lease cite this article as doi:10.1002/psp4.12669

haëlle Lesage, Giulia Russo, Roberta Bursi, Luca Emili,

rlsson, Alexander Kulesza, Eulalie Courcelles Jean-Pierre

Possible Contexts of Use for *In Silico* Trials Methodologies: A Consensus-Based Review

Marco Viceconti . Luca Emili . Payman Afshari . Eulalie Courcelles, Cristina Curreli . Nele Famaey D. Liesbet Geris D. Marc Horner, Maria Cristina Jori D. Alexander Kulesza D. Axel Loewe D. Michael Neidlin D., Markus Reiterer, Cecile F. Rousseau, Giulia Russo D., Simon J. Sonntag, Emmanuelle M. Voisin, and Francesco Pappalardo ©

Abstract-The term "In Silico Trial" indicates the use of computer modelling and simulation to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a medical product, whether a drug, a medical device, a diagnostic product or an advanced therapy

medicinal product. Predictive models are positioned as new methodologies for the development and the regulatory evaluation of medical products. New methodologies are qualified by regulators such as FDA and EMA through formal

Standards related to Digital Twins



search through all content

Q SEARCH

LOGIN →

STANDARDS

DATABASES

POLICIES

COLLECTIONS

ORGANISATIONS

ADD CONTENT

STATS

ACTIONS ~

GENERAL INFORMATION





EDITH standards collection for Virtual Human Twins in Health







Type

Registry

Description

Organisations

Homepage

Collection

Collection

Collection of standards recommended by the European EDITH (Ecosystem Digital Twins in Healthcare) consortium for virtual human twins (VHTs) in health.

Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies, EDITH consortium, VPHi - Virtual Physiological Human Institute

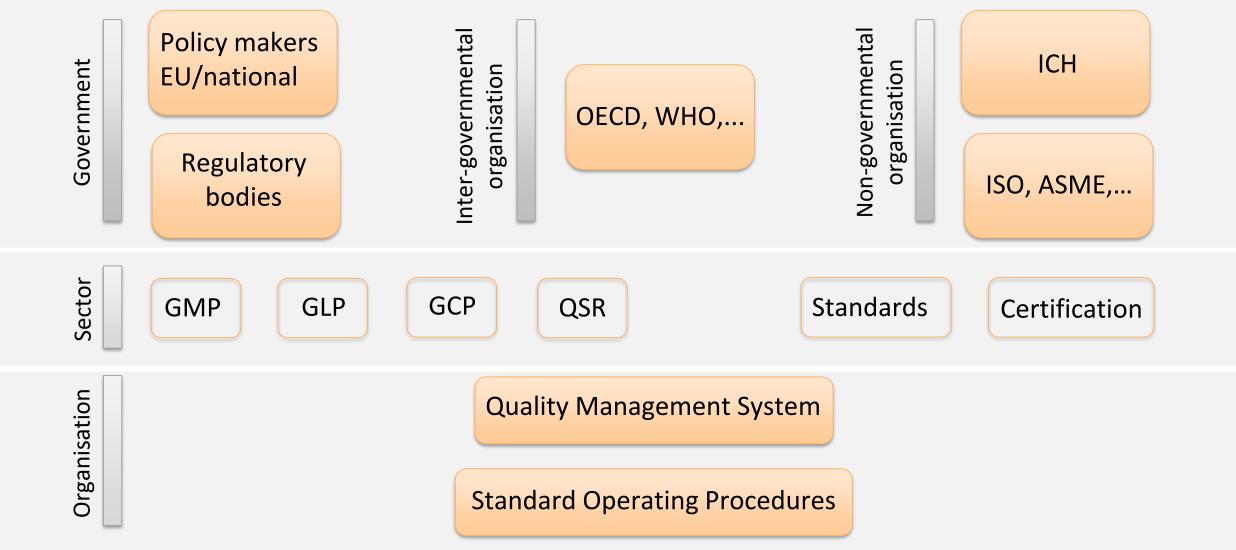
https://www.edith-csa.eu

https://fairsharing.org/4787



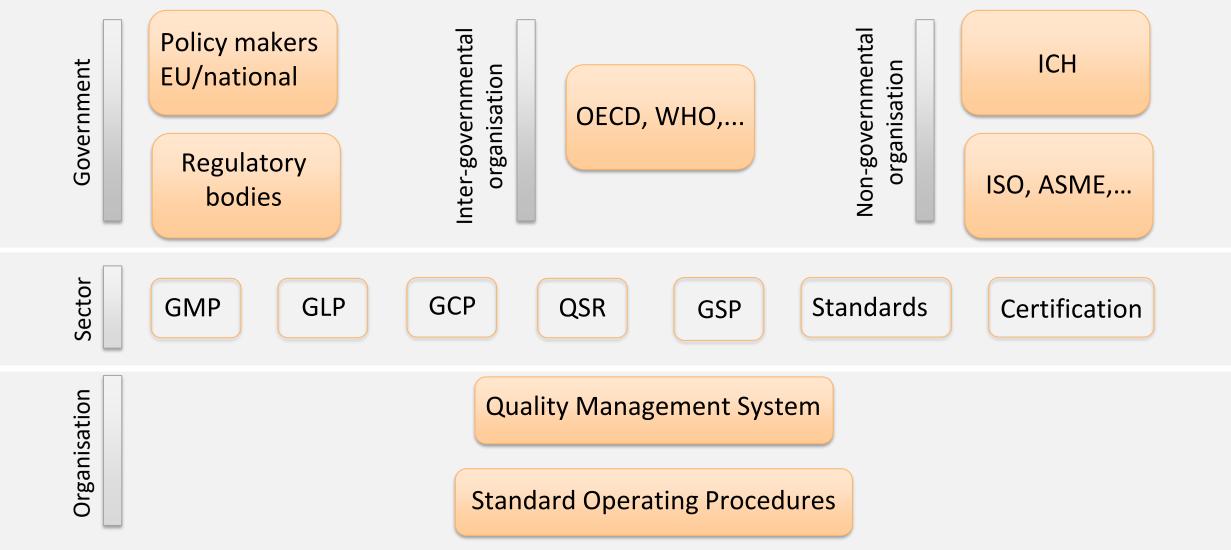
Translation towards the patient





Translation towards the patient



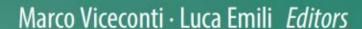




Good Simulation Practice

- Community effort
 - Academia
 - Industry
 - Regulators
 - HTA
 - Ethics & social sciences
- Used GCP as basis
- Each chapter reviewed by FDA



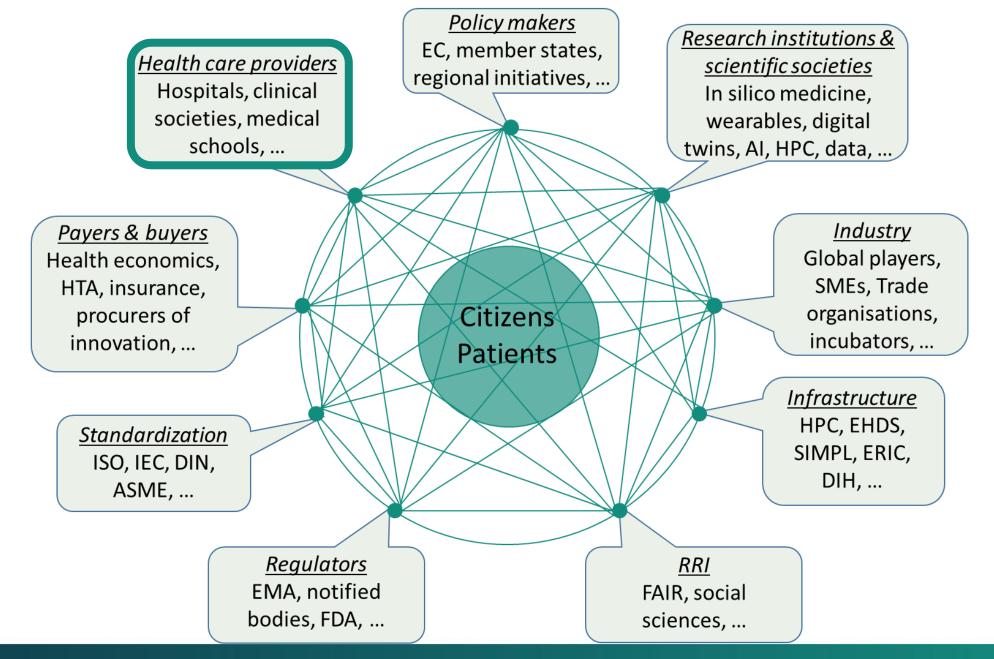


Toward Good Simulation Practice

Best Practices for the Use of Computational Modelling and Simulation in the Regulatory Process of Biomedical Products







Clinical survey on in silico medicine



Mapping the use of computer modelling and simulation in clinics

Report of the 1st VPHi Clinical Community survey 2021







Objective 1 Mapping the use of computer modeling & simulations

(CM&S).

V

Objective 2 Assessing the current level of acceptance.



Objective 3
Identifying the barriers.



Objective 4
Highlighting future opportunities.

Lesage+, Front. MedTech, 2023



Clinical survey on in silico medicine

Lesage+, Front. MedTech, 2023



Awareness in concepts

Perception of positive role played by CM&S in planning procedures

Positive impact on confidence

Accuracy to provide patient-specific results

Trust



Required technical expertise

Low access to computing resources

Perceived slow turnaround time of simulations

Limitation to a few medical area

Familiarity with CM&S technologies



Opportunities:

Trust

Role for CM&S profiles & expertise considered

Existence of interdisciplinary collaborations

Applications in teaching, planning



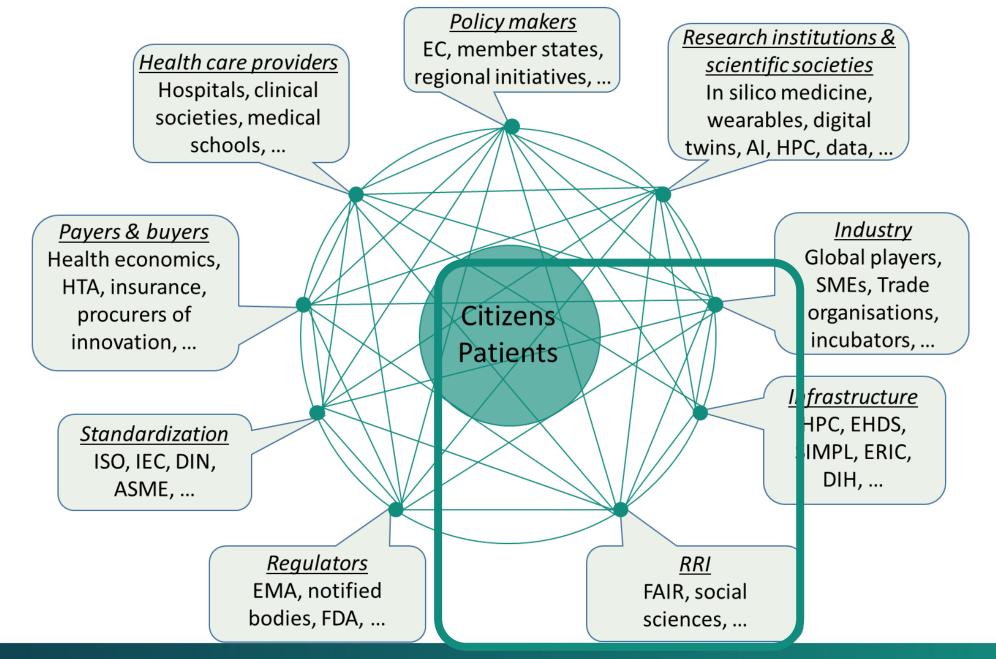
Threats:

Recognition of regulatory approval by clinicians

Level of awareness in certain terms

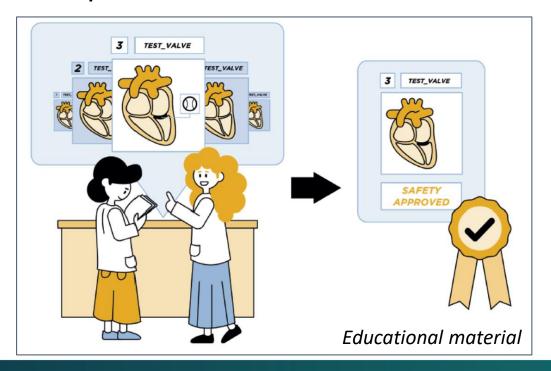
Mistrust/over expectations

Lack of funding for CM&S expertise



ELSI challenges: social acceptance & trust

- Trustworthiness vs trust
- Important role for clinician



Educational videos

All material combined

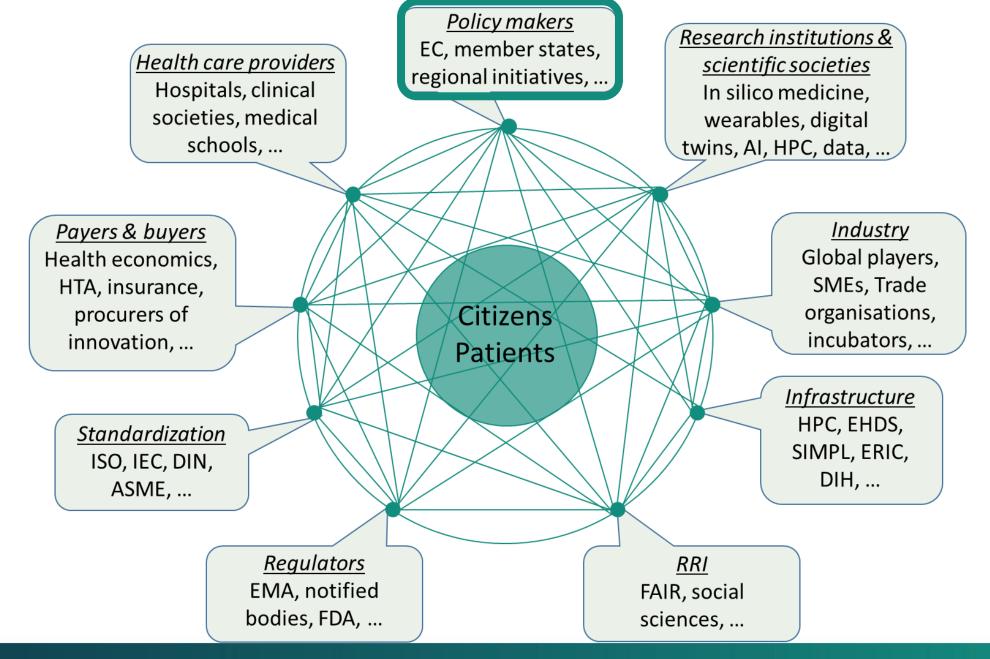
Coming soon!

VPHi Info Kit

A DIY guide for stakeholder engagement and outreach on In Silico Medicine







... to an incipient infrastructure







European Virtual Human Twins

An EU framework supporting the emergence and adoption of the next generation of virtual human twin solutions in health and care

The European Virtual Human Twins Initiative aims to accelerate personalised care with tangible benefits for citizens and patients, while sustaining and advancing EU science and technology in the Digital Single Market.





The European Virtual Human Twins Initiative



An EU framework supporting the emergence and adoption of the next generation of virtual human twin solutions in health and care

The Initiative will:



Foster an inclusive and collaborative multi-stakeholder ecosystem



Breakdown silos and support interoperability, integration and scaling up of VHT-based solutions



Build a state-of-the-art platform to enable modelling across scales of human anatomy



Facilitate advanced research and technology development on virtual human twins, including AI foundational models



Leverage the **power of novel computational methods** and advanced computing capacities



Fully comply with EU values and rules: private, safe and secure



EDITH-CSA objectives

Ecosystem

Roadmap

Repository

Simulation **Platform**















































Virtual Human Twins – pragmatic definition

The Virtual Human Twin (VHT) is

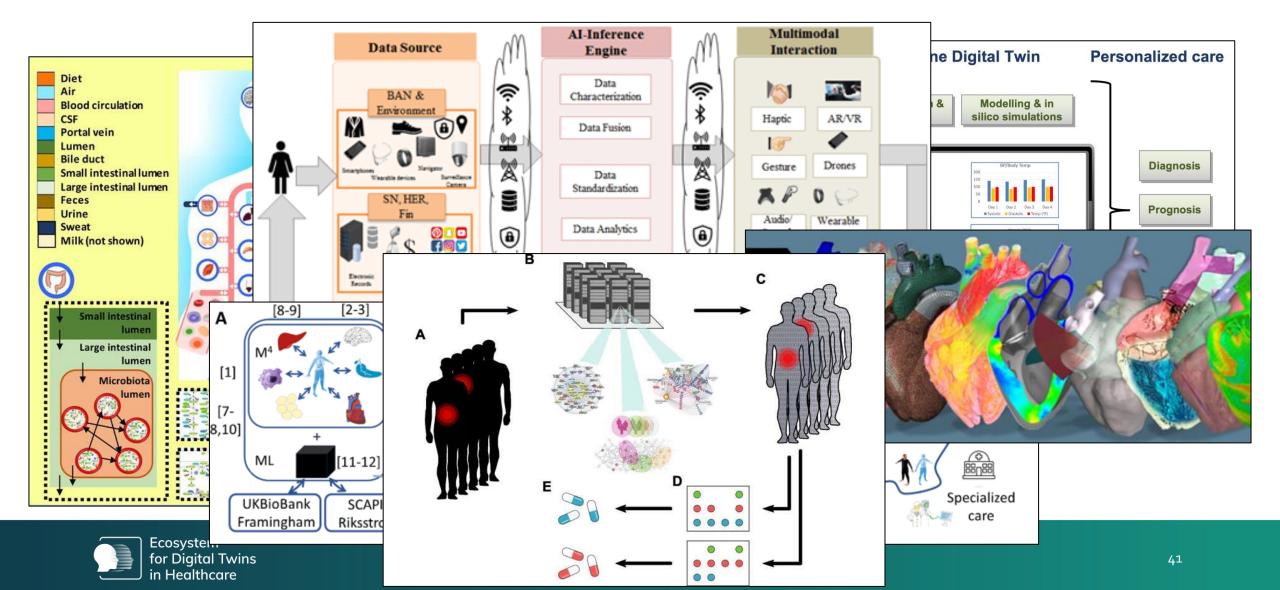
a systematic, ever-growing digital and quantitative representation of the actionable knowledge available on human pathophysiology.

The European VHT platform will enable the pooling of resources and assets (data, models, algorithms, computing power, storage etc.) to develop digital twins in healthcare and assess their credibility.

It entails the development of a **federated public infrastructure** and the collection of appropriate resources, driven by the engagement of a **collaborative ecosystem**.



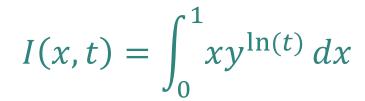
Virtual Human Twins



What could the VHT look like?



you can <u>search catalogue</u> by data type, anatomical location, age of the patient, and many other attributes

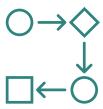


you can <u>access</u> every digital twin developed so far by anyone in Europe, including your own



you can <u>match</u> any digital twin with any available dataset that is a valid input for that model

you can <u>run</u> all those models on every digital dataset available in Europe on human health



you can <u>orchestrate</u> multiple digital twins to build multiscale or multisystem models

You can <u>script</u> the whole VHT, and save your scripts for automation or reuse by you or others

Uptake in Industry & Clinics

Industry

- Access to resources (data, models, compute infrastructure, storage networks,..)
- Sand box
- Benchmark
- Technology development
- ELSI clarity & certainty
- Find partners
- New commercial opportunities

Clinicians

- Train on virtual patients
- Test hypotheses on pathologies
- Clinical decision support
- Investigate comorbidities
- Integration in clinical workflow
- Access
- Data & annotation

Pre-selected use cases

Platform

(SEEK)

Repository

HITS

Partner	Topic	Model	Data	Computation	integration	Use case(s)
BSC	Cancer (<i>PerMed</i> <i>Coe</i>)	Multiscale, agent-based	Single cell sequencing, images	HPC	Workflow in development	Personalised health forecast
U.Liège & UKA	Intensive Care (MII, STAR)	Pharmaco- dynamics	Nutrition intake, glucose measurements, mechanical ventilation	Bedside, realtime	Parameter sensitivity	In silico clinical trials, Personalised treatment
QMUL &	Cardio-	mechanistic	Medical images (CT,	HPC, GPU	Single-organ workflow	In silico clinical trials,

electromechanical MRI), electroanatomic established; integration vascular Personalised **EPFL** with cancer use case model + with ML treatment planning (CVDHub) mapping algorithm

Mechanical model Medical images Single-organ workflow Osteo-**HPC** established porosis forecast (BBCT)

UNIBO

Personalised health JFZ + Brain Data-driven model Very large data-sets Distributed Single-organ workflow Personalised **QMUL** (BigBrain) (1TB) established, integration treatment planning with CV use case

Cloud

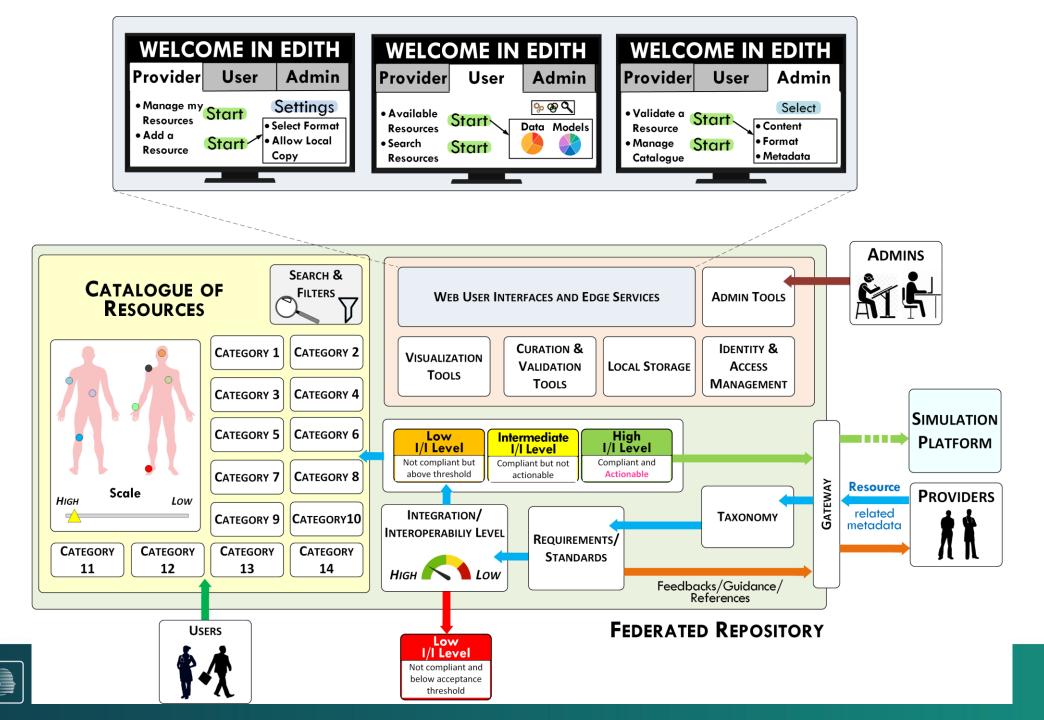
Repository

Development of API to link

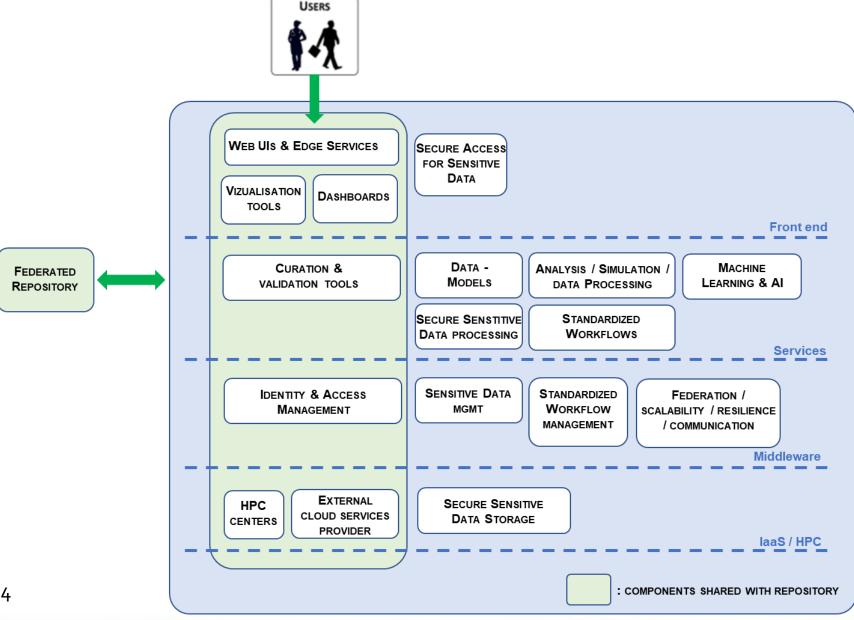
to EDITH repository

Linking EDITH to

existing repositories



Possible architecture simulation platform



Digital Europe program: procurement for simulation platform (24 mio€) – DL 7/6/2024



ICES 3/10/2024 46

To realise the VHT, work is required on:

Technology

- Individual resources: data, models, algorithms
- Integration of resources
- APIs
- Infrastructure, networks
- Hardware: imaging, sensing...
- Connection EHDS, SIMPL

ELSI

- Access, privacy
- Ethics, code of conduct
- Legal & policy aspects
- Regulatory considerations
- Standardization

Users

- Different profiles
- Access & workflows
- Interaction with other platforms & repositories

Sustainability

- Clinical uptake
- Large companies
- Start-ups
- Marketplace
- business modelling
- ERIC, EDIH

Integration

- Integration of models
 - Different levels (tissue & intracellular)
 - Different organ systems (e.g. heart & lung)
 - Orchestration: strongly vs loosely coupled
- Integration of data
 - Different types of data (e.g. images & wearables, omics & wearables)
- Integration of model & data [when data and models are not co-located]
 - Bring data to the model > data replication services
 - Bring model to the data > model containerization



Complementary to existing RIs























Roadmap for the Virtual Human Twin





Roadmap writing & validation

- Design phase (1/10/2023-31/7/2023)
 - Consortium, industry advisory board, expert meetings (covering all elements of ecosystem)
 - Public writing 1st draft
- Develop phase (1/8/2023-16/7/2024)
 - Manifesto, boards, expert meetings, ecosystem meeting
 - Public writing 2nd draft
- Deliver phase (17/7/2024-31/12/2024)
 - Ecosystem: public endorsement
 - Advisory boards: expert / political endorsement
 - EPF: patient endorsement



Q





zenodo

Open Access Resources of the EDITH Coordination and Support Action

Published July 31, 2023 | Version v1





EDITH CSA Deliverable 3.2: first draft of the VHT roadmap

EDITH consortium

The VHT Roadmap is due – in its final version – by the end of the EDITH Coordination and Support Action (i.e., September 2024). The present document is the first draft of the Roadmap, This preliminary version of the Roadmap was planned in EDITH's Grant Agreement as an initial contribution to the internal decision-making process of the European Commission. It has the declared purpose of allowing the Commission to start specifying already at an early stage by what steps the goal of pursuing the development of a VHT-based healthcare will be likely to trigger an effective engagement of Europe's researchers, clinicians, industries, and regulators.

This interim version is therefore meant to highlight what is currently the **envisioned structure** of what will be in a year time the **final roadmap** and its main contents, leaving open the possibility that these contents can still be subject to both substantial and formal changes, in response to suggestions coming from both the European Commission and from different sectors of the broadening community of practice that the EDITH CSA is addressing.

In consideration of these double-edge purposes, this preliminary draft aims to capture the **main concepts and the overall approach of the VHT Roadmap**, while also **identifying relevant challenges** (from the perspective of research, infrastructure, and other specific aspects) that need to be addressed in the remaining year of the EDITH CSA (and beyond) and which will require further analysis, with the support of the whole VHT Community. For the technology, standards, regulatory, and legal aspects, the draft provides an overview of the state of the art and an analysis of VHT-specific needs, without determining as yet any conclusive choice.



▼ Show less details

	All versions	This version
Views @	3,552	3,446
Downloads @	2,625	2,554
Data volume ⊙	8.8 GB	8.6 GB

More info on how stats are collected...

Versions

1 Introduction 6 STANDARDS, REGULATIONS, LEGAL, Development/Implementation 3 STATE OF THE ART AND UPTAKE OF THE MATURITY OF VIRTUAL ETHICAL, AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE VIRTUAL HUMAN TWIN **HUMAN TWIN ELEMENTS** VIRTUAL HUMAN TWIN • 7.1 Introduction 7.2 USERS 6.1 Introduction 3.1 Introduction 7.3 EVOLUTIONARY 3.2 IN SILICO MEDICINE 6.2 REGULATORY SCIENCE AND **ECOSYSTEM** 3.3 DATA & DATA-DRIVEN **STANDARDS** 7.4 SUSTAINABILITY **6.3 HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT TWINS** 7.5 CONCLUSION 3.4 INFRASTRUCTURES & AND PAYERS 6.4 LEGALS ASPECTS **PLATFORMS** 6.5 ETHICAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS 3.5 SCIENTIFIC, CLINICAL 6.6 CONCLUSION AND INDUSTRIAL **ORGANISATIONS** 3.6 REGULATORY, HTA AND STANDARDISATION ACTORS 5 TECHNOLOGY FOR THE 3.7 Public policy at EU VIRTUAL HUMAN TWIN LEVEL 3.8 VHT INITIATIVES & 5.1 Introduction 5.2 ORGANISATION OF ACTORS IN EUROPE AND AT **RESOURCES** MEMBER STATE LEVEL 3.9 CONCLUSION Conceptualisation/Design 5.3 DATA 5.4 Models 4 VISION FOR THE • 5.5 INTEGRATION OF VIRTUAL HUMAN TWIN RESOURCES 4.1 Introduction 5.6 INFRASTRUCTURE 4.2 Possible Scenarios 5.7 CONCLUSION 2 GENESIS OF THE 4.3 VISION AND BARRIERS ROADMAP FOR THE VHT 4.4 THE VHT ECOSYSTEM 2.1 MEETINGS TO DISCUSS 4.5 CONCLUSION VISION AND ROADMAP 2.2 WRITING OF THE ROADMAP **EDITH** Present **Future** 8 Discussion & Recommendations

9 Epilogue: Next steps fo the EDITH project

Roadmap writing & validation

- Design phase (1/10/2023-31/7/2023)
 - Consortium, industry advisory board, expert meetings (covering all elements of ecosystem)
 - Public writing 1st draft
- Develop phase (1/8/2023-16/7/2024)
 - Manifesto, boards, expert meetings, ecosystem meeting
 - Public writing 2nd draft
- Deliver phase (17/7/2024-31/12/2024)
 - Ecosystem: public endorsement
 - Advisory boards: expert / political endorsement
 - EPF: patient endorsement



Manifesto for the Virtual Human Twin

- Driven by EC, facilitated by EDITH
- Why?
 - Way of demonstrating support from ecosystem
 - Increase visibility of VHT-related activities
 - High-level entry into the VHT
- http://www.virtualhumantwins.eu





Sustainability & Ecosystem involvement

- Develop and promote specific (policy) recommendations to further the development of the VHT ecosystem, infrastructure and uptake.
- Develop incentive mechanisms for developers/researchers for uploading and/or making their resources available on the federated infrastructure.
- Promote buy-in in the community, targeting resource developers (modellers, infrastructure providers, data collections) and users, but also regional & national initiatives in EU27.

EDITH-CSA Ecosystem Meeting

15 & 16 July 2024 | KIT Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam



Roadmap writing & validation

- Design phase (1/10/2023-31/7/2023)
 - Consortium, industry advisory board, expert meetings (covering all elements of ecosystem)
 - Public writing 1st draft
- Develop phase (1/8/2023-16/7/2024)
 - Manifesto, boards, expert meetings, ecosystem meeting
 - Public writing 2nd draft
- Deliver phase (17/7/2024-31/12/2024)
 - Ecosystem: public endorsement
 - Advisory boards: expert / political endorsement
 - EPF: patient endorsement





http://www.edith-csa.eu

Deliverables available under tab 'dissemination/material'

Sign up for updates under 'get involved/contact form'

Access roadmap files for providing input/feedback under tab 'roadmap'



