

# Digital Health Innovation Platform (d.hip)

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## Aims and structure

Erlangen and Nuremberg are unique due to their academic and industrial environment. In the field of medical technology, the high density of clinical institutions, university and non-university research institutions and companies (from small start-ups to multinational corporations) provide ideal basic conditions for new and advanced product developments. In particular, digitization in the healthcare sector is one of the topics that the region is primarily involved in. It is also one of the biggest economic growth drivers: Experts estimate the global market volume for digital healthcare solutions to be over US\$ 230 billion by 2020, as compared with US\$ 135.9 billion in 2017 (source: Statista). The goal of the Digital Health Innovation Platform (d.hip) is to profit from this growth and jointly become the innovation leader for digital applications in order to optimize health care.

The partners Siemens Healthineers, UK Erlangen, FAU, and Medical Valley EMN have joined forces in the cooperation network d.hip to implement outstanding research projects in the field of digitization of the health sector over the next three years.

The Digital Health Innovation Platform was launched in spring of 2018. Since September, the new space has been in use in the former Siemens Healthineers showroom, which with over 500m<sup>2</sup> offers enough space for project teams, start-ups, and events. A maker space is also available for the production of small prototypes.

Since the initial call for projects in June 2018, the first projects have almost been completed. Representatives of the d.hip partners have submitted various innovative project ideas, for example to improve the care of Parkinson's patients, to optimize breast cancer research, or to improve the therapy of infectious patients using digital solutions. From all the submitted projects the best projects were selected and imple-

mented in the d.hip Lablaboratory as well as directly at the partners' facilities. There are currently four calls per year to which applications can be submitted together with other d.hip partners.

d.hip is complemented by a scientific program, recruiting professorships in key technology areas and international graduate students for projects in Erlangen.

## Research

The d.hip research projects deal with future fields such as „Digital Health Twin & Family“, precision medicine, hospital management, or new services for home care, in order to make the opportunities of digitization usable for every citizen.

In order to take advantage of the high numbers of experts from the region, a focus was defined for d.hip projects – the Digital Health Twin & Family. This topic revolves around the most holistic possible digital collection of patient data of various kinds. Processing this data will enable new diagnoses and therapy indications. These data refer, for example, to genomes, medical images, cardiovascular systems, connections between the functions of individual organs or simple information from patient letters. By individually comparing the data of a patient with this reference database, it is possible to respond more individually to the patients' needs based on identified parallels with documented clinical patterns or other anomalies.

Within the framework of the d.hip projects, employees from all d.hip partner institutions can submit their ideas to jointly advance the Digital Health Twin.

