



81st United Nations General Assembly UNGA81 Virtual Side Event

Concept Note

Open Science: As Open As Possible *for* Health Development

Date: 23 September 2026; Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am (EST, New York time)

Background

Open science has the potential of making the scientific process more transparent, inclusive and democratic. Our recommendations provides an internationally agreed definition, as well as a set of shared values and guiding principles for open science. It also identifies a set of actions conducive to a fair and equitable operationalization of open science, with a special focus on improving maternal and child mortality and morbidity. Of all the health statistics monitored by the World Health Organization (WHO), maternal mortality and morbidity (both physical and mental), shows the largest discrepancy, between developed and developing countries. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionize healthcare. Within obstetrics and gynecology, it has proven to be useful for diagnostic and outcome predictions, particularly within maternal-child health and reproductive health research. AI also has been used to harness the massive data sets produced by surgery, particularly robotic-assisted surgery, that are difficult to interpret with traditional statistical methods.

Every day, at least 700 women and girls die, one every 2 minutes, due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth. And hundreds more have short- and long-term disabilities, 90% of these deaths and disabilities occur in the developing countries.¹

Our Collective Advocacy/ National & International Platform

Future of health and education sectors is digital, in each and every country, rich and poor alike. Knowledge and understanding are precondition for action at all level. The Women's Health and Education Center launched an e-learning project in association with the Department of Public Information (DPI) of the United Nations (UN) on 24 October 2002 (<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>).² It has reached 227 countries and territories – serving about 14 million visitors, every year. Continuing medical education is a lifetime commitment requiring knowledge of current trends and developments in the science, technology and economics of healthcare. Convenience of provider-directed independent study activities allows healthcare professionals to reach the learning goals that must be incorporated into their demanding professional schedules.

Our efforts: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN's 2030 Agenda is attainable provided countries of North and South work together. The healthy future of society depends on the health of today's children and their mothers – who are the guardians of that future.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Applications in Medical and Surgical Practices

We need mechanisms, such as a data lake, to pool data and improve study power and generalizability. Beyond clinicopathologic features, there is ever-growing evidence that surgical skill significantly influences postoperative outcomes. The application of AI continues to advance in healthcare. Machine represents an opportunity to harness the massive data sets produced from surgery, could revolutionize surgical planning, outcomes prediction, intraoperative guidance, and training and credentialing.

Openness in science is an essential component of the scientific process. Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) recommends, promotes and implements UNESCO's Recommendation on Open Science and AI.³

It asks UN Member States to:

1. Promote a shared understanding of open science and set out diverse paths to achieving it.
2. Invest in infrastructure and activities that contribute to open science.
3. Invest in training, education, digital literacy and capacity building to support open science.
4. Foster a culture of open science and standardization of data collection and interpretation.
5. Extra emphasis should be on the explainability of AI models to optimize their acceptance, as partners in patient care, and to ensure patient and physicians safety, within medical and surgical clinical practice.

WHEC and its partners believe that a dedicated place is needed, in the United Nations to develop and refine appropriate norms, policies and pilots; promote future-ready human capabilities; and mobilize financing for public innovation ecosystems, for Education and Health Initiatives to succeed.

Science is a global public good that belongs to all of the humanity.

Sponsor

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)
NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC of the United Nations, since 2008

Speakers / Expert Opinions / Presentations from UN System and various Academic Institutions

The Speakers' List / Meet the Speakers / Agenda of the event, and WHEC Statement, will be posted on UNGA Page for worldwide dissemination and information.

Available @ <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whhec/unga.php3>

There is no registration fee; Zoom Link to participate is provided on this page.
All are welcome!

World Wide Dissemination Link / Page

Side Event Page on [WHEC Global Health Line \(WGHL\)](#), can be accessed from 227 countries and territories, (All UN & WHO Member States) and linked to various Academic institutions / US Educational in USA and abroad.

[Women's Health and Education Center \(WHEC\) - WHEC - United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA81\); Virtual Side Event](#)

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whhec/unga.php3>

References

1. Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2023: estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and UNDESA/Population Division. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025
2. Luthra, R. Internet health learning to improve women's health. Bulletin of the World Health Organization; July 2005, 83 (7):Page 557available @ http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Bull_WHO_July_2005_J_83_7_Page_557.pdf
3. UNESCO. An introduction to the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science. Canadian Commission for UNESCO. 2022. Available <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383771> Last accessed 3 August 2026

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Global e-Learning, e-Health and e-Government Platform

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