

WORLD LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE — WCPH 2026, Cape Town

Sunday 6 September | 16:30 | Meeting Room 1.41–1.42

Digital health in BRICS: towards an equity-oriented technological development model

Digital technologies hold enormous promise for health: improving diagnostics, strengthening surveillance, expanding access and enabling new forms of knowledge generation. Yet the digital transformation of healthcare also carries risks — privacy violations, disinformation, iatrogenesis and, critically, the reproduction and exacerbation of health inequities. These benefits and risks are inseparable from the technological development models established by large corporations and powerful governments, often with little transparency or public debate.

Brazil, China, India and South Africa have accumulated significant experience in digital health that points toward a different model — one responsive to population needs and grounded in universality and health equity. This dialogue convenes leaders from BRICS public health associations to share that experience and explore how a more equitable, publicly accountable approach to digital transformation can be advanced worldwide.

Chair

Luis Eugenio de Souza — Past President, World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)

Speakers

Dr. Ana Estela Haddad — Ministry of Health, Brazil

Dr. Minghui Ren — Chinese Preventive Medicine Association

Dr. Sanghamitra Gosh – President, Indian Public health Association

Dr. Kaushik Mitra - Indian Public health Association

Dr. Lwando Maki – President, Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA)

Dr. Rômulo Paes-Sousa – President, Abrasco

Mr. Bin Li - President, Chinese Preventive Medicine Association (CPMA)