

The Maimonides Project*

A collaborative effort to accelerate the transformation of the health system, worldwide

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The Challenge

We all want a health system that promotes health, rather than just treats disease. We want services that are responsive to our culture and sensitive to our unique individual needs. We want responsible and integrated care, available anywhere, to anyone. We want a sustainable health system that enables us to take control and responsibility for our own health and wellness, to access the knowledge needed to make informed decisions, and to partner with others to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Although there are thousands of initiatives throughout the world trying to transform a clearly outdated and unsustainable health system, we have not managed to achieve this level of people-centeredness. Succeeding will require bold and ambitious goals, and unprecedented degrees of commitment, collaboration and coordination.

We may feel that the current challenges are insurmountable. However, just a few decades ago we thought that it was impossible to land safely on the moon or to decode the human genome. With relatively primitive tools, but with leadership, clear vision, conviction and painstaking work, we proved ourselves wrong. Now, armed with information and communication technologies of unimaginable and ever increasing power, we must believe that we can have a health system that truly meets our needs and, with a strong sense of urgency, prove ourselves right.

The Maimonides project is a global collaborative effort designed to promote the emergence of people-centered health systems around the world, through the innovative use of information and communication technologies.

The project seeks to enable the best minds to bring the best available knowledge and tools into real-world settings that act as living laboratories to facilitate the development and widespread adoption of effective and sustainable people-centered services.

* **Maimonides (1135-1204)**, also known as Rambam, was a medieval sage who connected and transcended different cultures (Greco-Roman, Jewish, Arab), continents (Europe, Africa and Asia) and areas of knowledge (medicine, philosophy, theology and law). He was born in Christian Spain, to Jewish parents and was revered throughout the Muslim world. Considered the greatest physician of his time, he treated Sultan Saladin, and Richard the Lionheart during the Crusades. One of his most memorable expressions was “teach thy tongue to say I do not know, and thou shalt progress.”

Supporters of *The Maimonides project* are:

- Contributing to the development of a global network of like-minded individuals prepared to collaborate with each other across traditional institutional, geographic, disciplinary, political, linguistic, cultural and religious. This network will also act as a think tank that will help optimize efforts by political, clinical, academic, community and policy-making leaders to promote people-centeredness in the health system
- Creating a continuously updated inventory of successful and failed large-scale efforts to promote people-centered health anywhere in the world
- Transforming key regions in different parts of the world into networked ‘Living Laboratories’ or ‘Living Spaces for Innovation’. Ideally, these regions should have:
 - A diverse population (with at least 1 million people living in rural and urban communities)
 - Political stability
 - Good ICT infrastructure
 - A critical mass of innovators interested in people-centered health, and
 - At least one leading figure willing and able to act as the link with the rest of the network
- Participating in the development of simulated future scenarios on different aspects of people-centered health to be tested in the Labs using a core set of methodological tools and outcomes
- Determining the level of return on investment (social, financial, political, technological and intellectual) for different options designed to promote people-centered health roles, workflows, process and services
- Developing physical, administrative and virtual resources to scale up effective interventions
- Generating an operational, legal, economic and political framework for the expansion of the project and implementation of its findings in all regions of the world
- Promoting shared agendas to engage the public as a partner in all activities

The Maimonides Project has already received strong support from government, academic and corporate leaders in key regions of the world who are committed to a people-centered approach to the health system, and to tackle major challenges associated with primary care reform and complex chronic disease management through the use of information and communication technologies, and strong international cooperation.

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