



# Cutting-Edge Health Technologies: Opportunities and Challenges

**A joint Technical Symposium by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO)**

Geneva, 31 October 2019, 09h45-17h30  
WTO, Room W

**Deadline for registration:  
24 October 2019**



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## About this year's Trilateral Symposium

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This Symposium, organized by the WHO, WIPO, and the WTO, will discuss innovation in, and access to, cutting-edge health technologies as requisite elements for ensuring progress toward universal health coverage and the achievement of the health-related UN Sustainable Development Goals. Scientific progress and advances in health technologies have contributed to unprecedented improvements in health outcomes. However, significant challenges remain. Gains in life expectancy and quality of life are unequally distributed among low-, middle-, and high-income countries and inequities persist within countries. To bridge these gaps and to tackle the evolving global disease burden requires needs-driven research, technological advances that address specific diseases, as well as access to and affordability of new treatments.

The Directors-General of the three collaborating organizations will set the scene in the opening session. The first panel will then review the landscape of cutting-edge technologies. Panellists will discuss perspectives for future health outcomes through biotechnology, information technology and big data as applied in the medical and medical devices sectors.

The second panel will discuss the opportunities and challenges of optimising the benefits of these new technologies. Panellists will address increasing costs for healthcare systems, access and affordability challenges and possible country options to facilitate wider use of these technologies as well as the use of confidential patient information data, and resulting ethical considerations.

To mark 10 years of more closely coordinated trilateral cooperation between the WHO, WIPO and the WTO, each organization will give an update of recent work with bearing on the themes of the Symposium.

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The event will be in English only

