

Welcome to the proceedings of the 2023 symposium of the Swiss Center for Design and Health.

Aims of the symposium

The Symposium aimed at creating recommendations to the Swiss Center for Design and Health, for its programs of action and research, and to help interested health officials, managers, designers, and front-line healthcare personnel achieve positive outcomes in their daily interaction with current challenges in both health promotion and healthcare. The symposium's aim was not the development of theory, but of specific guidelines to improve practices, ranging from the health of the environment, through policy making in public health and health services, to working in an operating theatre, or to the nature of clinical encounters.

Specific objectives of the symposium were the following

- 1) To contribute to the promotion of the benefits that the integration of Design and Health can bring to society, in terms of both healthcare (the medicine environment), and public health (health in daily life).
 - 2) To improve the understanding of design: moving from the design of objects and communications, to the softer terrain of human interactions; promoting a better understanding of Beyond-Human-Centered-Design (Design and the biosphere), and Evidence-based Design (the relation between design and science).
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- 3) To contribute to the development of the Swiss Center for Design and Health, by extending its network and promoting its potential for partnership with the health sector and other relevant actors.

The structure of the symposium

Three keynote in-person lectures and two online interviews were focused on opening discussions, posing questions, and sometimes using case studies to illustrate the integration of design and health, demonstrating the benefit that this integration had brought and can bring to both health and design. They were followed by 20 to 30 minutes of Q&A, and conversations between speakers and the audience. Four presentations took place on day one, July 10.

The topics of the lectures were further developed on day two by three Working Groups, that aimed at drafting recommendations for action and research.

The lectures explored different scales of reflection and action, and the ways in which these different scales affect human health, from the planet to the personal.

Daniel Wahl discussed the broadest concerns: the ecological health of the planet and the issues that should be addressed in defense of a healthier way of living.

Thomas Zeltner focused on public health and the need to understand it as an ecology, whose efficiency and ethics should be centered on love and respect for all involved. Not only being a patient centered approach, but considering everybody that is in the system.

Angela Mazzi focused on the specific problem of building health services spaces that contribute to healing.

Juan Pablo Brito explained the ways in which designers and clinicians work together at Mayo Clinic to make the medical encounters as humane as possible.

Guillermina Noël got closer to the person-to-person scale, including individual examples, and discussing several issues that affect the quality of the encounters between patients and healthcare providers, that often happen in situations of stress.

The Working Groups

There were three Working groups that met for 4 hours to discuss the topics presented by the lecturers who made in-person presentations. The working groups were moderated by the keynote speakers supported by a colleague. They presented their recommendations to the whole assembly on the morning of day three.

Jorge Frascara, Coordinator of the event, and member of the International Advisory Board.