

## Inaugural Class of IAHSI – 2024



**Fernando Plazzotta**

Dr. Fernando Plazzotta is a Medical Informatics, Digital Health, and Telemedicine specialist with 20 years of experience in the field. He graduated from the University of Buenos Aires and trained in medical informatics and information systems at the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires (Medical Informatics Residency). He also holds a Master's Degree in Telemedicine from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

Currently, he works as a Medical Informatician in the Health Informatics Department of the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, coordinating and leading projects, and he is also in charge of the Consumer Health Informatics Department. Additionally, he serves as an international consultant for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), where he

collaborates on different Digital Health initiatives in the region.

Fernando believes that digital health is a fundamental aspect to improve and transform the health system, based on the idea that proper information management is vital for the continuity of care at all levels; considering data cycles as continuous processes intimately related to care processes.

From a management point of view, he considers that digital health strategies have an inseparable socio-technical component, from governance and policy definition to implementation and field support. He has had the opportunity to participate in all levels of digital transformation, as he has been trained and has experience in all phases of the process, forming part of transdisciplinary work teams and conceiving change management as one of the key aspects for a successful implementation of digital health.

As part of the team of the Hospital Italiano, a world-renowned institution in his field and also a collaborating center of PAHO, he has had the opportunity to participate in many discussion forums, international conferences, and the writing of technical documents for international organizations such as PAHO, WHO, and IADB. He has also had the opportunity to be part of the educational team, initially through the digital literacy of health professionals when the millennium began, also creating the Spanish version of the AMIA 10x10 course, and then the Master's Degree in Health Informatics, in which he is a teacher, jury member, and thesis director.

With regard to collaboration with government structures, he has participated in various projects related to Public Health in Ministries of Health of different jurisdictions: at the national level, where he collaborated as a consultant for the drafting and planning of a national health informatics project; in the City of Buenos Aires, where he had the opportunity to participate in the creation and drafting of regulations; and in the Province of Buenos Aires, where he led the survey, planning, and implementation of an Electronic Health Record implementation project in the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires, with an area of influence of over 15 million people.

In the framework of his professional development, he has published more than 50 articles in scientific dissemination journals, 38 of them indexed in PubMed; he has also participated in numerous international congresses of the discipline. With the same intention of disseminating the acquired knowledge, he participates as a teacher in various training courses, including postgraduate courses and master's degrees, in Argentina and neighboring countries.