

Theme: Behavioral Health in the Age of Emerging Technology

Date: March 4 – 5, 2026

Day 1: Foundations, Tensions, and Possibilities

8:15 am – 8:45 am: Check-in & Morning Reception	
Light Breakfast, Coffee & Networking	Student Union Ballroom A & B
8:45 am – 9:00 am: Welcome & Position	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45 – 8:50 – E-Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and Senator Alex Padilla • 8:50 – 8:56 – President Cynthia Teniente-Matson • 8:57 – 9:00 – Introduction to the Conference and Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Audrey Shillington, Dean of CHHS 	Student Union Ballroom A & B
9:00 am – 9:50 am: Framing Health TechQuity in Behavioral Health	
<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIMHD Perspectives on Technology in Behavioral Health Disparities: Monica Webb Hooper, Ph.D., Acting Director, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities • California’s Behavioral Health Transformation: Progress and Vision: Marlies Perez, MA, Behavioral Health Transformation Project Executive, California Department of Health Care Services • Ideas into Action: Russell Shilling, Ph.D. - Senior Innovation Advisor, ShillingForge Consulting, LLC. 	Student Union Ballroom A & B
10:00 am – 11:30 am: Opening Panel – Population Behavioral & Mental Health	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Thinker) Brendon Hale, Ph.D.- Chief Science and Product Officer, Sidekick Wellness • (Innovator) Trevor van Mierlo, Ph.D.- CEO/Founder Evolution Health 	Student Union Ballroom A & B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Innovator) Anupam Khandelwal - CEO and Co-Founder SageSurfer • (Doer) Michael B. Scates - President and CEO, Momentum for Health • (Moderator) Kunal Sampat, Director, Biotechnology, San José State University; Host, Clinical Trial Podcast 	
11:30 am – 12:00 pm: Break – Grab Your Lunch Box	
	Student Union Ballroom B
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm: Session 1A – Applied Dialogue & Networking Lunch	
<p>Title: Implementation of California’s Behavioral Health Transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Innovator) Guy Tsafnt, Ph.D. - Founder & CEO Evidentli • (Thinker) Marlies Perez, MA, - Chief of Community Services, California Department of Health Care Services • (Doer) Ryan Mosley – Medi-Cal Enterprise Systems Modernization Division Chief, Behavioral Health Transformation Project Director, California Department of Health Care Services • (Doer) Ria Paul, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Santa Clara Family Health Plan • (Moderator) TBD 	Student Union Ballroom A
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm: Session 1B – Applied Dialogue & Networking Lunch	
<p>Title: Digital Tools for Loneliness in Special Populations (Older Adults & People with ASD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Innovator) Victor Wang - CoFounder, Friendi.fi • (Thinker) Lawrence Quill, Ph.D. - False Starts and Ongoing Problems • (Doer) Lauren Libero, Ph.D. - Autism Services Branch Lead, California Department of Developmental Services; Alison Giannini, M.S., BCBA., Aging Services Branch Manager, California Department of Developmental Services • (Moderator) Julia Scott, Ph.D. - Santa Clara University 	Meeting Room 2
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm: Break	
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm: Session 2A – Emerging Topics & Tools	
<p>Title: Digital Twins: An Emerging Behavioral Health Tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Innovator) Tony Clark, Founder and CEO at 2-Dooz, Inc 	Student Union Ballroom A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Thinker) Amir Rahmani, Ph.D. - Professor, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, University of California, Irvine • (Doer) Michael B. Scates - President and CEO, Momentum for Health • (Moderator) Kunal Sampat, Director, Biotechnology, San José State University; Host, Clinical Trial Podcast 	
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1:45 pm – 3:15 pm: Session 2B – Emerging Topics & Tools

<p>Title: Strategies for Advancing Women’s Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Innovator) Georgie Drury - CoFounder & Ceo MetLuma • (Thinker) Kasuen Maldin, Ph.D., Professor of Nutrition, Food Science & Packaging, SJSU • (Doer) Tony Maddox, • (Moderator) Sohela Shah, Ph.D.- Director, Catalyst Program & Invent Fund, University of California, San Francisco 	Meeting Room 2
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3:15 pm – 3:30 pm: Break

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm: Session 3: Innovation Spotlight

<p>Title: Innovations That Could Close a Gap</p> <p>Innovators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol (Care for All), Junaid Ahmed, Co-founder/CTO @ Carol, Assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University • Emotional Robot I, Dr. Behin Elahi • Emotional Robot II, Dr. Behin Elahi • Positive Approach XR, Nora Reder, Student Developer, University of California, Berkeley • FairScan, Christelle Mombo-Zigah, CEO & CoFounder • Biometric Trafikking, Harold Francisco <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Warner, CEO of CareAxis, Inc, Founder and Executive Chairman of the Dealstream, US Ambassador, Global Health Director • Christina Keny, Ph.D., Clinical Research Scientist in AgeTech and Digital Health at Samsung Research America • Russell Shilling, Ph.D. - Senior Innovation Advisor, ShillingForge Consulting, LLC. 	Student Union Ballroom A & B
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travis Millman, CEO at Valley of Death Partners, and Deep Tech Startup Sherpa • Michael Dao, Ph.D. - Associate Professor of Kinesiology; Director, Human Rights Institute • Emily Hu, Medtech and Healthtech Operator, Advisor, Consultant, and Investor, specializing in clinical and regulatory strategy 	
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm: Reflections & Day 1 Wrap	
Facilitated synthesis of key insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite contributions to 'Equity-in-Tech Ideas Wall' 	Student Union Ballroom A & B
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm: Evening Reception & Networking Mixer	
Hosted reception with appetizers and drinks	Student Union Ballroom C

Day 2: Synthesis, Strategy, and Action

8:30 am – 9:00 am: Check-in & Morning Reception	
Light Breakfast, Coffee & Networking	Student Union Ballroom A & B
9:00 am – 9:50 am: Opening Plenary	
Title: Sticky Issues in Technology for Health Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding through the 340B Pharmacy Policy: Sunita Desai, Ph.D. (confirmed), Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health, New York University Grossman School of Medicine • Sticky Issues in Technology Solutions to Equity in Healthcare and Workforce Development: Prashanth Asuri, Ph.D., (confirmed) Professor of Bioengineering in the School of Engineering and Director of Santa Clara's Healthcare Innovation and Design Program, Santa Clara University 	Student Union Ballroom A & B
9:50 am – 10:00 am: Break	
10:00 am – 11:30 am: Session 1A: Nitty-Gritty Issues	
Title: What Will It Take to Scale Equitable Solutions? Format: Fireside chat panel Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trevor van Mierlo, Ph.D. - CEO/Founder Evolution Health 	Student Union Ballroom A & B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sody Tronson, M.S., J.D., Managing Counsel, STLG Law Firm • Russell Shilling, Ph.D. - Senior Innovation Advisor, ShillingForge Consulting, LLC. • Kakoli Banerjee, MPA, Ph.D. - Director of Planning, Development, & Implementation, Pathways Society, Santa Clara County. • Eisha Buch, M.S., Head of Teaching and Learning, Common Sense Media • (Moderator): Travis Millman, CEO at Valley of Death Partners, and Deep Tech Startup Sherpa 	
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10:00 am – 11:30 am: Session 1B: Looking Forward

<p>Title: Preparing Tomorrow’s Workforce, Today</p> <p>Format: Fireside chat panel</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Crocker Cook, Ph.D., D.Min., LMFT, LAADC, San José City College Alcohol and Drug Studies Program Coordinator, Santa Clara County Workforce Advisory Committee • Bobbi Makani, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Career Center at San José State University. Dr. Makani holds two doctoral degrees, one in Digital Online Learning and another in Management. • Brendon Hale, Ph.D. - Chief Science and Product Officer, Sidekick Wellness • Alhassan S. Yasin, Ph.D. - Co-founder/CEO @ Carol (Care for All), Senior Research Scientist, Johns Hopkins University. • Ellen Middaugh, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University; Co-PI CLARION (Civic Literacy, Action, and Reasoning in Online Networks) • (Moderator): Laurie Drabble, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Applied Research in Human Services, College of Health and Human Sciences, San José State University 	<p>Meeting Room 2</p>
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11:30 am – 11:45 : Break

11:45 am – 12:00 pm: Closing Remarks & Next Steps

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommit to unifying goals • Announce post-conference brief, follow-ups • Appreciation + call to collective leadership 	<p>Student Union Ballroom A & B</p>
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