



Announcement: satellite workshop prior to ICBM 2025 in Vienna

Improving research practice to understand and address the digital health divide

With many aspects of healthcare and behavioural interventions frequently turning to digital tools for delivery, ensuring that these innovations, and the way in which they are evaluated, do not widen health inequalities is of paramount importance. The digital health divide describes the gap between those people in the population who are able to access, use and benefit from digital health resources and those who are not. Such a divide can be attributed to various factors, including socioeconomic status, discrepancies in digital literacy, pro-innovation biases on behalf of developers, and research practice that favours evaluation in often motivated, affluent, and digitally able people. The aim of this two-day workshop is to determine which aspects of research practice can be improved to better understand and address the digital health divide.

On August 5th (13:30-18:00) and 6th (08:30-13:00) 2025 we will host a series of interactive 90-minute sessions. On day 1, after setting the scene of the issue we will be looking to map the problem as to how research practice can exacerbate the digital divide. On day 2, we will turn our attention to solution mapping and generating an output that summarises the discussion with an intention to submit to a peer-reviewed journal with all willing attendees as coauthors. Opportunities for networking, socialising and coffee will be included in the programme.

By the end of the workshop we hope to have achieved three key objectives: 1) generate new knowledge and awareness of what the digital health divide is, and how we, as researchers, might be able to modify our practice to better understand and address it; 2) commence the writing of a cutting edge position statement that makes a call to action for other researchers to also update their practice; and 3) bring together an interdisciplinary cohort with interest in digital health and inequalities together that can form a thriving collaborative group going forward.

Key information:

When and where? August 5-6, 2025, University of Vienna, Austria

For whom? Researchers interested in reducing digital health disparities through improved research practices

How much? Participation (including coffee breaks) is free of charge.

Apply now: <https://ww3.unipark.de/uc/DigitalDivideWorkshop2025/>

Applications close February 16, 2025. Successful applicants will be notified in March 2025.

The workshop is organised by Prof. Dr. Laura M. König (University of Vienna; laura.koenig@univie.ac.at) and Dr. Max J. Western (University of Bath; M.J.Western@bath.ac.uk)