



From Patient Engagement to Patient Leadership
Across the Cardiovascular Health Landscape

Day 1 (2 November)		
08:30–08:55	Registration	
09:00–09:40	WELCOME AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS <i>Heart of the Matter: Patient as Partner in Improving Cardiovascular Health Around the Globe</i> Keynote Speaker: Kwanele Asante, Patient Partner, PxP Africa (South Africa) <i>A powerful personal perspective on why lived experience belongs at the heart of cardiovascular decision-making, and how patient voices can drive better research, policy and care.</i>	
09:40–10:30	OPENING PLENARY <i>From Engagement to Leadership: Rewriting the Role of the Patient Community in Cardiovascular Health</i> Moderator: Nicola Bedlington, CEO, Millwater Partners (Austria) Q&A with Dani Mothci, CEO, International Alliance of Patients’ Organizations (UK) Panellists: - Carolyn Taylor, Founder & Executive Director, Global Focus on Cancer (USA) - Prof John Gordon Harold, Member of Global Heart Hub’s Clinical & Specialist Advisory Panel; Cedars-Sinai Health Sciences University (USA) - Sean Taylor, Director of Science and Public Health, World Heart Federation (Switzerland) - Paloma Tejada, Associate Director, Alliance Building, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) (Switzerland) <i>What does meaningful patient leadership look like across sectors? Explore how we can move beyond consultation to genuine partnership, shared decision-making and long-term collaboration across the cardiovascular health community.</i>	
10:30–10:50	Audience Q&A	
10:50–11:20	Break & Networking	
11:20–12:00	INTERACTIVE PANEL – CO-HOSTED WITH THE GEORGE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH <i>Building Trust and Empathy in Cardiovascular Care Systems</i> Moderator: Dr Prasanthi Attwood, The George Institute for Global Health (UK) Panellists: - Carolyn Taylor, Founder & Executive Director, Global Focus on Cancer (USA) - Chloe Greene, Patient Advocate (Ireland) - Ram Khandelwal, Founder & Executive Director, Heart Health India Foundation (India) <i>This interactive discussion will explore what it takes to build and sustain trust in cardiovascular care systems, and how patient organisations and communities can bridge gaps between health systems and communities, while also pushing for accountability and change.</i>	
12:00–12:15	Audience Q&A	
12:15–13:00	FIRESIDE CHAT <i>Centring Patient Narratives in Cardiovascular Care</i> Moderator: Kwanele Asante, Patient Partner, PxP Africa (South Africa) Discussants: - Gwen Mayes, Patient Advocate, WomenHeart Champion, Consultant, Author, GwenCoHealth (USA) - Rhonda Monroe, Patient Engagement Thought Leader (USA) <i>This fireside chat will explore how people with lived experience can shape and share their personal narratives to influence policy and advance patient priorities, connecting individual stories with collective advocacy.</i>	
13:00–14:00	Lunch	
14:00–14:35	AFTERNOON PLENARY <i>Patient Data as Superpower</i> Speaker: Neil Bertelsen, Patient Engagement Specialist (Germany) <i>This plenary will explore how patient experience data can act as a powerful catalyst for more relevant, impactful cardiovascular research, moving beyond traditional metrics to capture what truly matters to people living with disease.</i>	
14:35–14:50	Audience Q&A	
14:50–15:00	Movement Break and Dispersal to Parallel Sessions	
15:00–15:45	PARALLEL 1: From Research to Access: Embedding the Patient Voice Across Medicines and MedTech Innovation Moderator: Nicola Bedlington, CEO, Millwater Partners (Austria) Speakers: - Dr Elisabeth Oehrlein, EVP & Head of Patient Engagement, AppliedPX / Reservoir Health (USA) - Maria Mavris, Patient and Consumer Liaison, European Medicines Agency (Netherlands) - Nazhen Chen, Founder & Patient Advocate, Homy FH China Patient Network (China) <i>What changes when patient insight shapes treatment and innovation from the start? Explore how lived experience can influence everything from research and development to access, usability and long-term care.</i>	PARALLEL 2: Clinical Research by Design, Not by Invitation: Building Trials Patients Can Trust, Join and Shape Moderator: Neil Johnson, Executive Director, Global Heart Hub (Ireland) Speakers: - Prof Fidelma Dunne, Professor of Translational Clinical Trials and Director, Institute for Clinical Trials, University of Galway (Ireland) - Jeffrey Wexler, Patient Advocate, CEO & Founder, Voices Atrial Fibrillation Patients (USA) - Michaela Dinboeck, Head Patient Engagement, Novartis (Switzerland) - Fiona Savio, Cardiovascular Leadership Senior Manager, Advocacy Relations, Amgen (USA) <i>How can we design cardiovascular trials that people want to join and help shape? Explore practical approaches to building more inclusive, accessible and patient-informed clinical research.</i>
15:45–16:15	Break & Networking	
16:15–17:00	INTERACTIVE PANEL <i>Bridging the Gap: Patient Partnership in Regulatory Approval & HTA Decisions</i> Moderator: Neil Bertelsen, Patient Engagement Specialist (Germany) Panellists: - Dr Durhane Wong-Rieger, Patient Advocate & President, Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders (Canada) - Maria Mavris, Patient and Consumer Liaison, European Medicines Agency (Netherlands) - Dr Ramiro Gilardino, HTA & Policy Expert, Insights & Impact (Switzerland) - Andrea Rappagliosi, MedTech Europe (Switzerland) <i>This session will look at how more systematic, front-end involvement of patients and patient organisations can strengthen both regulatory and HTA processes, helping ensure decisions reflect what matters in practical terms and across diverse health systems.</i>	
17:00–18:00	Closing Remarks and Community Building Activity	
19:15	Networking Reception	
19:30	UNITE SUMMIT DINNER	

Day 2 (3 November)		
07:45–8:15	HEART-HEALTHY MORNING ACTIVITIES <i>Option 1: Healthy Heart Walk— Rise, Connect & Stride</i> 7:45 departure from the hotel lobby. Approximately 30-minute walk, returning to the hotel at 8:15. Please note that the walk will not proceed in unsuitable weather conditions. <i>Option 2: Movement Matters — Rise, Connect & Move</i> 7:45–8:15 Room 15/16. 30-minute movement class with Prof Jenni Jones. <i>Option 3: Meditation Matters — Rise, Connect & Meditate</i> 7:45–8:15 Room 18. 30-minute meditation session with Pat O’Donnell.	
09:00–09:10	Welcome and Day 1 recap	
09:10–10:00	MORNING PLENARY <i>Global Cardiovascular Health Advocacy: Aligning Patients, Policy and Systems</i> Moderator: Nicola Bedlington, CEO, Millwater Partners (Austria) Panellists: • Prof Fausto Pinto, Member of Global Heart Hub’s Clinical & Specialist Advisory Panel; Cardiologist, Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal) • Claudia Louati, Head of Policy, European Patients’ Forum (Belgium) • Dr Sita Ratna Devi Duddi, Patient Advocate, Dakshayani and Amaravati Health and Education (India) • Sophie Millar, Secretariat, European Alliance for Cardiovascular Health; European Society of Cardiology (Belgium) <i>How can lived experience influence global, regional and national policymaking processes? Explore how advocacy can connect the patient community, policymakers and health systems to turn ambition into meaningful change.</i>	
10:00–10:20	Audience Q&A	
10:20–11:00	INTERACTIVE PANEL <i>Overcoming Barriers to Patient Engagement in Cardiovascular Health</i> Moderator: Nicola Bedlington, CEO, Millwater Partners (Austria) Panellists: • Derick Mitchell, Executive Director of PFMD (Patient Focused Medicines Development); The Synergist (Ireland) • Dr Lydia Makaroff, Chief Executive, Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (UK) • Dani Mothci, CEO, International Alliance of Patients’ Organizations (UK) • Susie Birney, Patient Advocate, Irish Coalition for People Living with Obesity CLG and European Coalition for People Living with Obesity (Ireland) <i>What gets in the way of meaningful patient partnership and what can we do about it? A practical discussion on compensating patient expertise, representation and diversity, conflicts of interest, engagement fatigue and measuring impact.</i>	
11:00–11:25	Break & Networking	
11:25–12:10	PARALLEL 3: Designing Cardiovascular Services Around Lived Experience Moderator: Neil Johnson, Executive Director, Global Heart Hub (Ireland) Panellists: • Prof Sandra Lauck, Member of Global Heart Hub’s Clinical & Specialist Advisory Panel; Nurse Clinician Scientist, University of British Columbia (Canada) • Iolo Eilian, HSE Assistant National Director, Patient and Service User Experience (Ireland) • Ann-Marie Julien, Patient Partner (Canada) <i>What would cardiovascular care look like if it were designed around what matters most to people? Explore how lived experience can help create more connected, accessible and responsive services across the patient journey.</i>	PARALLEL 4: From Patient Voice to Partnership: Reimagining Health Professions Education Moderator: Prof Jennifer Jones, Professor of Physiotherapy, Australian Catholic University (Australia) Panellists: • Apoorva Sancheti, Physiotherapist (Ireland) • Richard Mindham, Patient Advocate (UK) • Annie Descôteaux, Patient Partner, Université de Montréal (Canada) • Caroline Wong, Strategic Advisor/Patient Partnership Expert, Centre of Excellence on Partnership with Patients and the Public (Canada) <i>How can lived experience help shape the next generation of health professionals? Explore new approaches to bringing patient perspectives into education, training and clinical practice.</i>
12:10–12:20	Return to main room (Redwood Suite)	
12:20–13:00	CLOSING PLENARY <i>What Will It Take to Truly Centre Patients in Cardiovascular Health: Sustainable Models for Patient Engagement</i> Moderator: Nicola Bedlington, CEO, Millwater Partners (Austria) Panellists: • Derick Mitchell, Executive Director of PFMD (Patient Focused Medicines Development); The Synergist (Ireland) • Sean Taylor, Director of Science and Public Health, World Heart Federation (Switzerland) • Dr Lydia Makaroff, Chief Executive, Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (UK) • Prof John Gordon Harold, Member of Global Heart Hub’s Clinical & Specialist Advisory Panel; Cedars-Sinai Health Sciences University (USA) • Manjusha Chatterjee, Global Heart Hub <i>How do we make patient partnership part of the system, not a short-term initiative? Explore the leadership, investment, accountability and sustainable models needed to turn meaningful engagement into lasting change.</i>	
13:00–13:20	Award Presentation	
13:20–13:30	Closing Remarks	
13:30	Lunch & Networking	

