

When we chose the theme for today's conference, 'Connecting for Health Transformation' **our plan** was to **make sure** we had a room full of people able to **share their perspectives** on healthcare in Ireland. **People** from the public and private sectors. **People** who represent medics and patients. **And** people **able to show us** what has worked **elsewhere that we might** be able to adopt here and I am delighted to say **they are all in this room today**.

We were also conscious **that for transformation to happen effectively** connection, engagement and facilitation is vital. **That is why we have constructed** the day to include opportunities to network, a fireside chat and lots of panel discussions.

So, Our panels are **a blend across** the sector. And again We deliberately designed the conference in this way – to provide value with these considerations. **We have more panels** than we've ever had previously and **more coming together** across the sector giving viewpoints in **healthcare challenges** from academia, public sector and industry. **This should provide** stimulating discussion, different viewpoints and considerations **whether we're talking** about procurement for example or digital health transformation. We recognise we can achieve more for patients through this type of cooperation.

For those of you at our previous events, **you've probably heard me talk regularly** about the three legs of the stool in **healthcare transformation** public, private and research all supporting the patient. HTI has become the **ideal gateway to come together with industry** to share ideas, find solutions and to build relationships. How have we achieved this? (**Through** 40 years of collaboration, through the act that members sign up to a code of Ethics and through our Memorandums of Understanding with many organisations here today, **including the HSE**).

And This is also reflected in the outputs we support. Following our Leadership Forum meeting a week or so ago in collaboration with the RCSI, we are helping facilitate developments **in Health Economics** with a coming together of RCSI, WifOR and industry, **with digital Health transformation** we are a participant in the National Digital Health Leaders Steering Committee, and **with innovation** we are working with the HSE innovation teams and industry to help progress these and other areas.

Now Part of the transformation story is **of course** the amazing innovative products, solutions and services that are created and available from our members. Having worked for 25 years in many roles involved in implementing healthcare solutions and services, **transformation also means** understanding and implementing the processes and pathways necessary such as procurement, supply chain, and **pathways that ultimately** enable these solutions reach patients.

True and sustainable healthcare transformation though must also have broader considerations, such regulation, defining value and of course sustainability **and** These are also all reflected in our panels today. **Additionally**, the our team has been working hard with our Board in the re-evaluation of our working groups and structures to better reflect addressing challenges in these topics.

In recent years, **challenges have been unprecedented** from Brexit, the pandemic, war and inflation and **they continue** to raise their head. We know Ireland is behind in certain areas of healthcare delivery for example digital health. **Considering we are a hotbed** for MedTech supported by a highly technical workforce, **it's up to all of us to leverage** our capabilities to enable change and I have absolutely no doubt we will continue to that. The pandemic demonstrated **what can be achieved** in healthcare both rapidly and safely when we take action together. Henry Ford once said 'Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success'.

So please do, throw yourself into today, talk, question and stimulate discussion and let's together accelerate this change.

Thank you