eHealth Center

Digital health research at the service of people

We are an academic centre specializing in digital health. We produce, convey and exchange knowledge based on an interdisciplinary approach, in order to promote and improve individual and collective health and well-being, based on scientific evidence.

We investigate how technologies impact health. We look at how digitalization contributes to establishing more robust healthcare systems with better trained professionals.

We believe that individuals should play the leading role in the management of their health. And we believe that, with the right information, they are able to decide which aspects improve their well-being.

We are seeking partnerships to accelerate the paradigm shift in healthcare. Are you involved in research in digital health, or as a professional, are you interested in promoting healthcare with the help of information and communication technologies?

Would you like to work with the eHealth Center?

Contact us!

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Health challenges we face
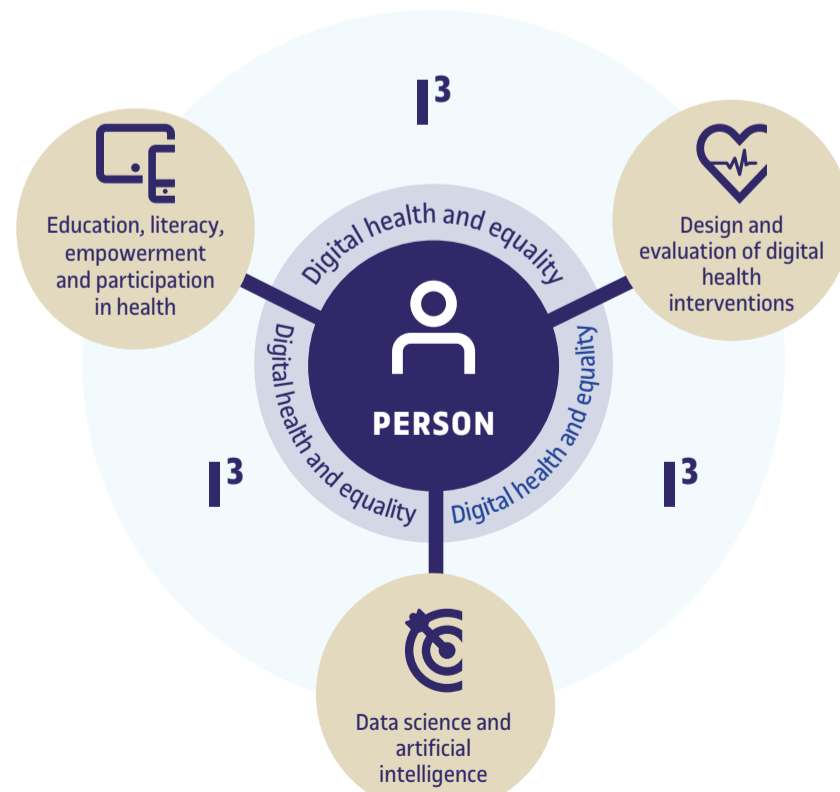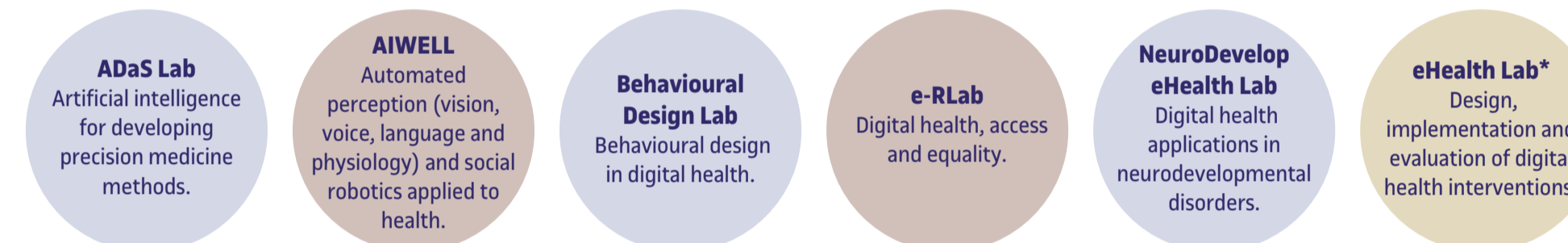
- The unequal distribution of health services and the impact of socio-economic status on health.
- The importance of personalization and participation in decision-making on healthcare.
- The need to rethink ageing in order to make ageing individuals and societies healthier.
- The responsibility to promote everyone's emotional well-being.
- Digital divides and training in digitalization for healthcare professionals.
- Epidemics and neglected diseases, as both a local and a global problem.
- The relationship between human health and planetary health.

What we do

- Address the **scientific challenges** of digital health and healthcare in the following **research areas**:
  - Education, literacy, empowerment and participation.
  - Data science and artificial intelligence.
  - Design and evaluation of digital health interventions.
- **Transfer and exchange knowledge and digital solutions** with key actors in society.
- Empower citizens and health professionals by means of **education**, **training** and **co-creation**.
- Raise public **awareness** of key aspects of digital health.

Five years contributing to research and innovation in digital health.
Find out here about the work of the eHealth Center since it was founded.

The eHealth Center model

- I³ Education, literacy, empowerment and participation in health
- I³ Design and evaluation of digital health interventions
- I³ Data science and artificial intelligence

PERSON

Digital health and equality

I³ = investigation, innovation and impact

An *e-health* research and innovation ecosystem

The centre is home to six research groups, and provides support for all the e-health research at the university. (see more).

6 groups directly linked to the eHealth Center

- **ADaS Lab** Artificial intelligence for developing precision medicine methods.
- **AIWELL** Automated perception (vision, voice, language and physiology) and social robotics applied to health.
- **Behavioural Design Lab** Behavioural design in digital health.
- **e-RLab** Digital health, access and equality.
- **NeuroDevelop eHealth Lab** Digital health applications in neurodevelopmental disorders.
- **eHealth Lab*** Design, implementation and evaluation of digital health interventions.

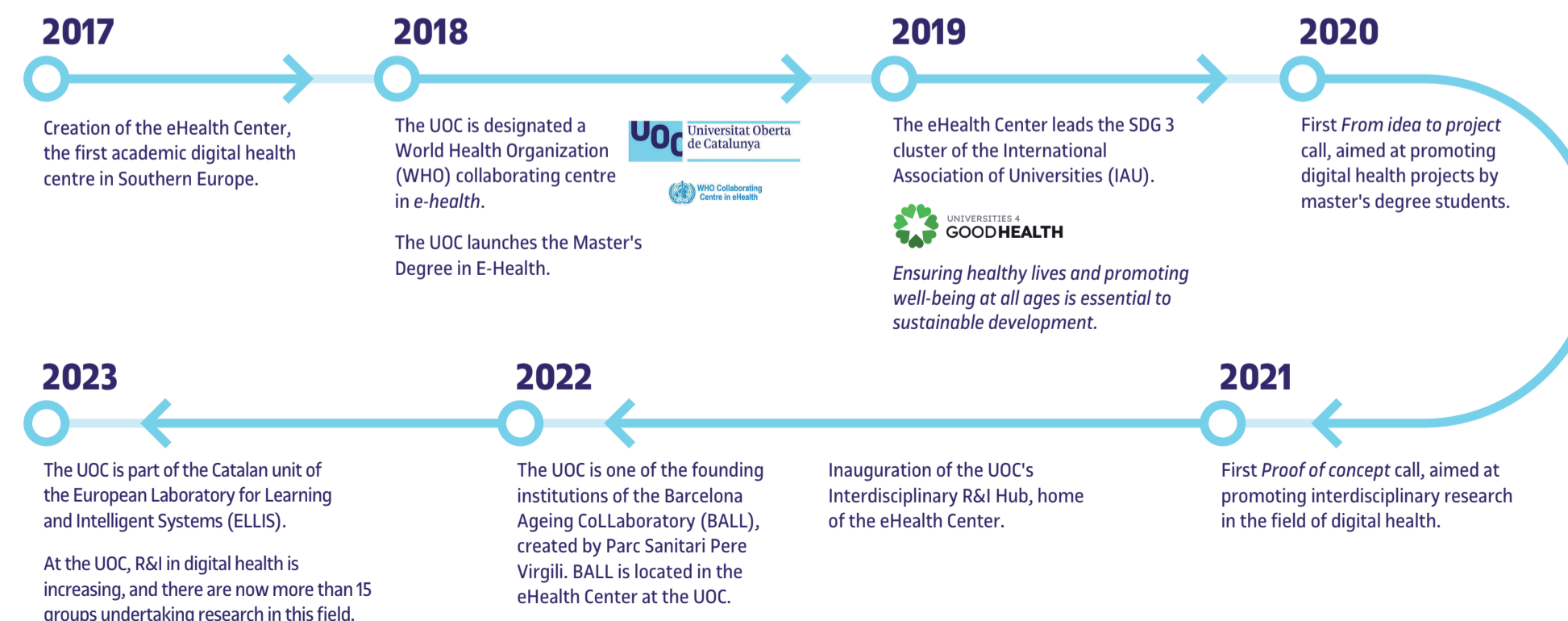**> 15** UOC groups with digital health research lines

> 40 digital health researchers at the UOC

* Group of the director of the eHealth Center, affiliated to the UOC's Faculty of Health Sciences.

9 Labs University facilities providing a service for digital health research.

UOC Labs	Audiovisual & Sound Lab	Data Science Lab	Design & Maker Lab	NeuroLab
Social, Behavioural and Cognition Lab	Social Networks & Gaming Lab	TechLab	Wireless Networks Lab	XR Lab. Immersive Technologies

Digital health research at the UOC

2017
Creation of the eHealth Center, the first academic digital health centre in Southern Europe.

2018
The UOC is designated a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating centre in e-health.
The UOC launches the Master's Degree in E-Health.

2019
The eHealth Center leads the SDG 3 cluster of the International Association of Universities (IAU).
GOOD HEALTH
Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development.

2020
First *From idea to project* call, aimed at promoting digital health projects by master's degree students.

2021
First *Proof of concept* call, aimed at promoting interdisciplinary research in the field of digital health.

2022
The UOC is one of the founding institutions of the Barcelona Ageing CoLLaboratory (BALL), created by Parc Sanitari Pere Virgili. BALL is located in the eHealth Center at the UOC.
Inauguration of the UOC's Interdisciplinary R&I Hub, home of the eHealth Center.

2023
The UOC is part of the Catalan unit of the European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS).
At the UOC, R&I in digital health is increasing, and there are now more than 15 groups undertaking research in this field.

Impact of the eHealth Center

Training

Launch of the **international postgraduate programme in Digital Health** in Argentina to train health professionals. This postgraduate programme is funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and is part of the *Argentina Campus Global* programme of the Argentine Ministry of Education.
After the postgraduate programme, a community of practice is established among the professionals who have received training so that they can continue sharing their knowledge.

Technology transfer

The **Assisted driving for children in the hospital environment** project by the AIWELL research group, in collaboration with researchers from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, and Hyundai, among other institutions.

Spaces open to the public

The eHealth What if Forum was a series of debates focusing on the challenges of healthcare and the role of technology in improving quality of life. Questions were formulated using the format "What if...?" as a tool to create thought-provoking scenarios.