



The World Without Disease Summit

Delivering future health through disease interception

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World Without Disease: A 2024 update

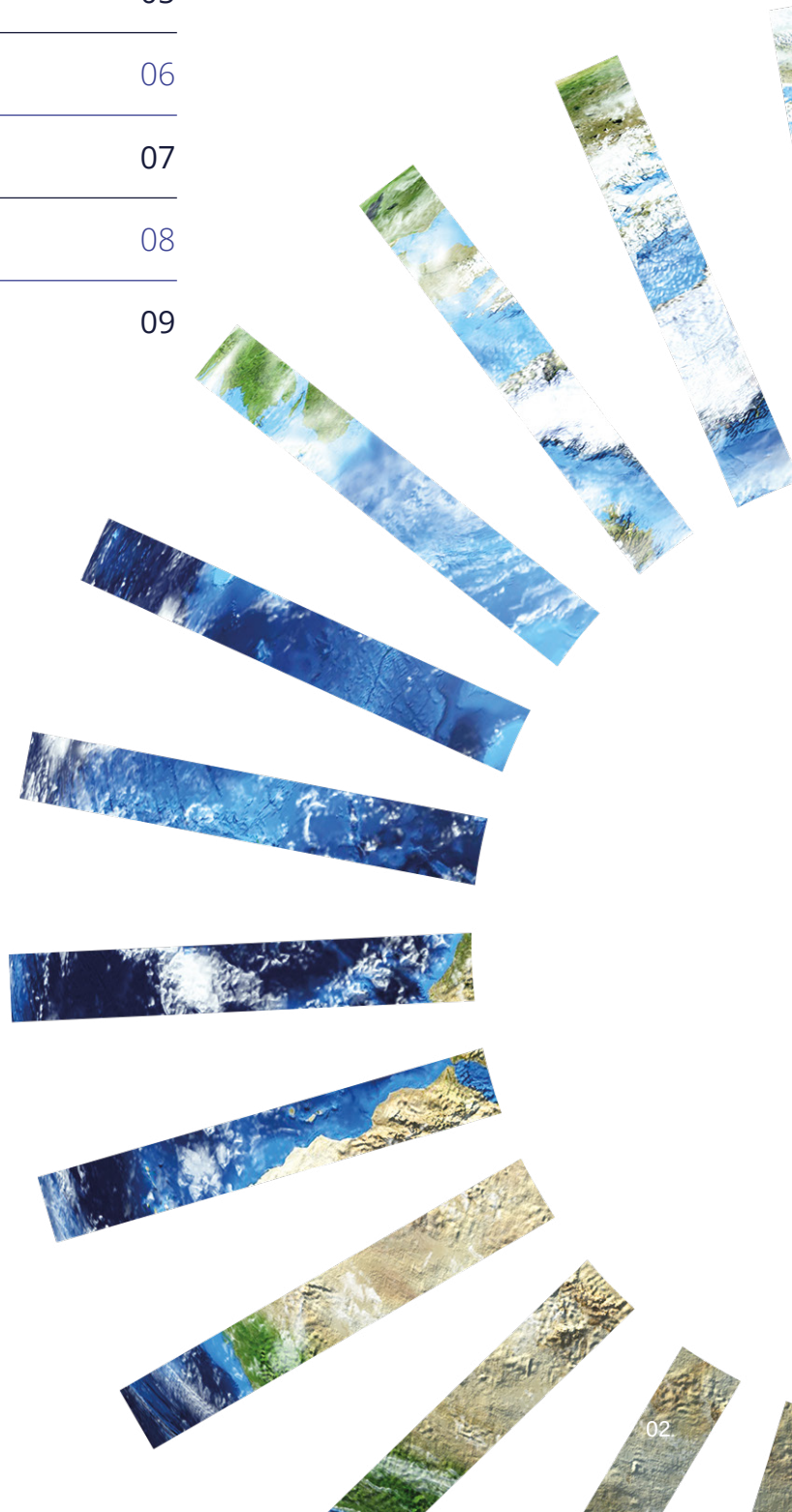
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**World Without
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Introduction

It's been just over a year since the release of the World Without Disease white paper, a [report](#) based on a day-long closed-door session where scientists, CEOs, doctors, nurses, patients, pharmaceutical executives, and more sat down to put together an actionable plan for making progress towards creating a world without disease.

Since that meeting in June 2023, the world has changed a lot. The treatment paradigm for obesity, one of the three therapeutic areas breakout groups focused on, has been radically transformed by the rapid proliferation of GLP-1 drugs. In cancer, one of the other areas, breakthroughs in cell and gene therapy and immunotherapy are constantly upending the space. And, although progress in immune disorders has been less bombastic, new research and validation from payers has helped move forward the prevention of food allergies and atopic dermatitis, as you'll learn in the update below.

Just prior to the Frontiers Health conference in Berlin, the attendees of the 2023 meeting met in person and virtually to deliver updates on their work and strategise about the future. Below are some of the key insights from that meeting.

Diagnostics and screening

Last year, attendees discussed the importance of introducing more diagnostics and screenings for common diseases and making them easier and more accessible.

This year, several members of the group shared examples of this trend put into action. After [acquiring Provention Bio](#) last year, Sanofi has begun investing in major public awareness campaigns to increase early screening for Type 1 diabetes. [The initiative](#) includes celebrities like Usher and a surround-sound event in New York City's Times Square.

In the UK, Head and Neck Cancer UK is also investing in awareness campaigns and screening days with corporate

partners for a disease that is the fastest growing cancer in the UK and has a 90% treatment success rate if caught in stage 1 or 2.

In the realm of at-home testing, California-based Salimetrics offers consumer-facing at-home tests for cortisol for stress, melatonin for sleep, insulin for metabolic health, and C-reactive protein for inflammation <https://healthgps.co/>. They've had success this year getting their sleep testing service into sleep clinics.



Immune health and disease prevention

One of the major topics of discussion last year was the prevention of autoimmune disease via very early intervention with infants. There have been a number of promising developments in this area.

ReadySetFood, a company that is creating supplements for newborns to help prevent the development of food allergies, has been able to further prove out its efficacy, convincing insurers that the intervention can save between \$400 and \$600 in the first year of life alone for a cost of just \$200. Medicaid plans in Missouri and Kentucky have agreed to pay for the product on this basis.

Healthcare costs for employers are [ballooning faster than inflation](#) leading employers to seek savings wherever they can find them, which creates an opportunity for innovators in disease prevention, especially if they can prove short-term ROI.

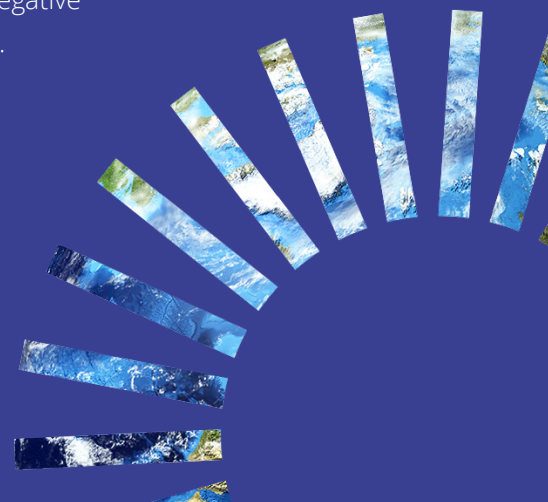
The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) is also working on new guidelines for food allergy prevention, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is likely to follow suit, one attendee shared.

A recently published trial, [STOP AD](#), showed the positive effects of using an emollient on infants in the first four days of life to reduce the incidence

of atopic dermatitis. It showed a 30% reduction in AD in the first year of life and a 60% reduction in chronic AD. That emollient is available over-the-counter from Johnson & Johnson, though they aren't yet able to advertise the link to AD prevention.

One attendee also mentioned a government-funded trial in Finland with forthcoming results that should provide some data about using a probiotic to improve the gut microbiome in high-risk infants.

There is still much work to do. Last year attendees also highlighted the importance of identifying and discontinuing factors that negatively impact children's health, and research is increasingly showing that the preservatives and emulsifiers in pre-packaged foods can have a negative effect on the gut microbiome.



Obesity and metabolic health

As mentioned above, obesity and metabolic health is one area that has been massively transformed in the last year by the introduction of GLP-1 weight loss drugs. As an illustration of how these drugs can be used in a public health context, the UK government is trialling Lilly's Monjauro as [a way to reduce unemployment in Manchester](#).

There are many benefits to GLP-1 drugs and they are greatly reducing obesity and its related co-morbidities, even [as the industry struggles to make the supply meet the demand](#). New research is also showing these drugs produce a reduction in inflammation that could have an even more profound effect on disease prevention.

But while GLP-1s, the "silver bullet" that obesity researchers and public health activists once thought impossible are providing a much needed solution, they also have a drawback: we are seeing less focus dedicated to obesity treatment, rather than obesity prevention, which is still important for building lifelong health in children.



Mental health

Mental health conditions and mental health comorbidities continue to be a major risk factor for chronic disease. Across the globe, rates of emotional distress, loneliness and anxiety are increasing and the number of mental health professionals to meet this demand is not sufficient. There was a broad discussion around leveraging recent advances in technology including Gen AI and digital communities to help address this issue in a scalable and sustainable way. References were made to a company, Lore Health, that is in this space. www.lore.co



Overall trends and next steps

Several members of the group have been working on building a funding ecosystem to make sure disease prevention initiatives can get the support they need. That funding is still limited and very dependent on the prevailing winds, but some investors have stepped up to the plate.

Some areas especially struggle to attract investors because of their track record. The food space is one such area – companies are finding they must position themselves as health and wellness companies rather than food companies due to some lacklustre performances of food companies like Beyond and Impossible that were expected to do better.

Providers are increasingly committing to earlier action in disease prevention, and they're leveraging an ever-increasing bank of data and real-world evidence to do so. One attendee shared that his UK group has a databank of 17 million patient to use in population-level prevention measures for COPD and lipid disorders.

Next steps are to launch more pilots and gather more data and take advantage of those opportunities to turn proven short-term cost savings into long-term prevention opportunities. Attendees also emphasised the importance of researching and leveraging “implementation science”, the scientific study of how to make interventions stick.

This is just a snapshot of some of the work this group has been doing since last year's World Without Disease Summit. We are committed to continuing to work toward making real progress on this ambitious mission and to sharing transparent updates on that progress.

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