Breaking Silos: Creating a Connected Health System in Nigeria

Date: 11 March 2026
Organized by: Society for Telemedicine & eHealth in Nigeria (SFTeHIN) and the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth (ISfTeH)

The Society for Telemedicine and eHealth in Nigeria (SFTeHIN) hosted a webinar on developing **connected digital health systems in Nigeria**, bringing together experts from government, the private sector, and civil society. The session explored the **policy, infrastructure, governance, and workforce challenges** involved in moving from fragmented digital health solutions toward interoperable systems capable of supporting telemedicine at scale.

Opening remarks were delivered by **Dr. Michelle Griffith, President of ISfTeH**, who emphasized the society's global mission to advance digital health transformation and improve access to care worldwide.

> *"We are witnessing a global transition from siloed digital health pilots to integrated systems capable of delivering universal health coverage."*
> - **Dr. Michelle Griffith**, President, ISfTeH

The keynote presentation by **Dr. Emeka Chukwu**, digital health strategist and co-founder of FutureFit Innovation Lab, examined the maturity of telemedicine in Nigeria and the systemic barriers to interoperability. He highlighted that although significant progress has been made in policy development and digital infrastructure, implementation and system integration remain major challenges.

> *"Telemedicine is not meant to be just video consultation. Its real value lies in connected systems that enable continuous care and shared data across the health ecosystem."*
> - **Dr. Emeka Chukwu**, FutureFit Innovation Lab

The panel discussion brought together perspectives from government, NGOs, and the private sector.

Dr. Inyobong, Deputy Director of Health Services at the Federal Capital Territory Administration, outlined Nigeria's progress in developing the National Digital Health Enterprise Architecture, emphasizing the importance of infrastructure readiness, governance, and operational frameworks for implementing national standards.

> *"The problem is not the absence of frameworks; the real challenge is operationalizing them so that systems can truly connect and function together."*
> - **Dr. Inyobong**, Federal Capital Territory Administration

From the civil society perspective, **Mrs. Roselyn Ilori**, CEO of Bridge57 and Women in Data Privacy, stressed the critical role NGOs and development partners play in building **digital literacy, trust, and ethical data governance**.

> *"Public trust is the foundation of any digital health ecosystem. Without trust, even the most innovative systems will struggle with adoption."*
> - **Mrs. Roselyn Ilori**, Bridge57 & Women in Data Privacy

Representing the private sector, **Dr. Folarin**, CEO of TrueDoc Nigeria, highlighted the importance of collaboration between government and private innovators. He explained that while technical standards such as **FHIR** are essential for interoperability, they must be supported by governance frameworks and institutional cooperation.

> *"FHIR is a powerful standard, but interoperability requires more than technology; it requires governance, policy, and willingness to share data."*
> - **Dr. Folarin**, TrueDoc Nigeria

Across the discussion, several key themes emerged:

- **Interoperability remains the central challenge** in digital health transformation.
- Nigeria has made **significant policy progress**, including adopting international standards and developing enterprise architecture frameworks.
- The next phase requires **implementation, governance, and operational frameworks**.
- **Public-private collaboration** is essential to connect existing digital health platforms.
- Building **trust, protecting data, and promoting digital literacy are** critical for widespread adoption.

The webinar concluded with an announcement of the **next ISfTeH National Members webinar**, scheduled for **13 April**, which will focus on the progress and future directions of telemedicine and digital health in Poland.

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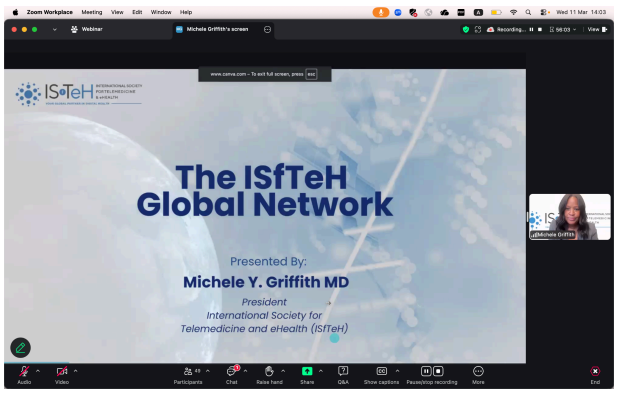

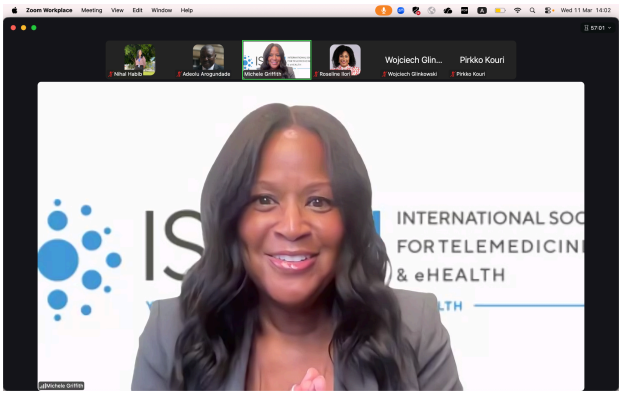

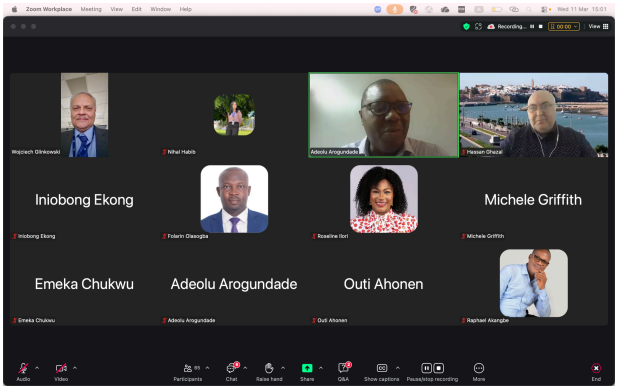

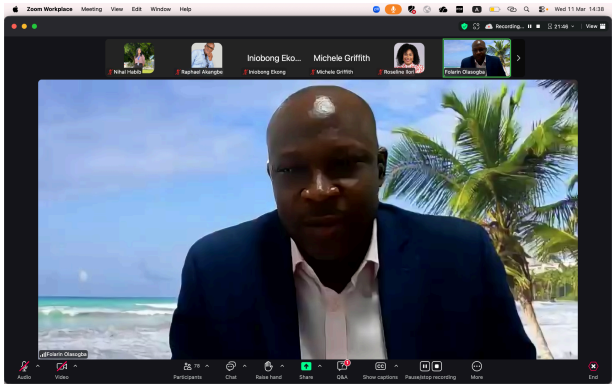

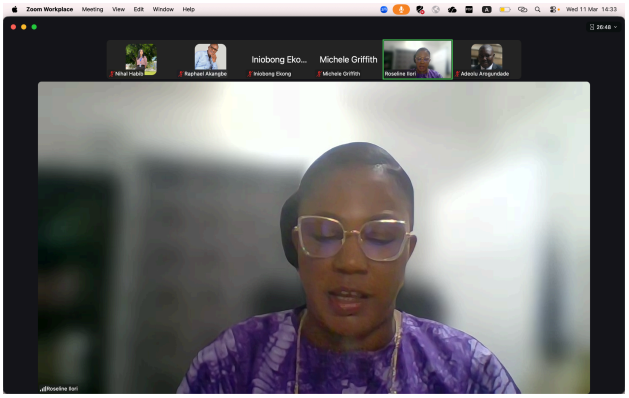

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