

In this issue of our quarterly newsletter, we're starting with an update on our health equity work across our industry, technologies and communities. We're also sharing updates on how we're bringing new health answers to "care deserts," transforming HIV testing, tracking COVID variants, and reporting results on the world's smallest heart device for infants.

In addition, you'll also hear from Abbott leaders sharing views on our key 2030 sustainability priorities of innovating for access and affordability and creating the workforce of tomorrow, as well as updates on our partnership to tackle malnutrition in kids and more.

As always, we welcome your [feedback](#). And please feel free to forward this newsletter to others; they can sign up to receive it directly [here](#).



## TOP STORY: ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

Good health is the foundation for all we can do in life.

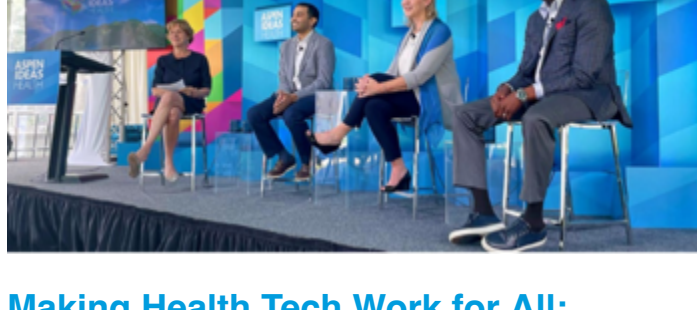
But many people face structural barriers that stand in the way of good health. Interconnected factors in our everyday lives impact health and lead to health disparities, including the environment, structural racism and the lack of economic opportunity, access to healthcare and education.

At Abbott, we're focused on advancing health equity, working across our business and in partnership with others to remove barriers that prevent people from living healthy lives. To deliver results, we've laid out long-term targets for our business as part of our [2030 Sustainability Plan](#) and we've made equitable care a key principle for our community partnerships.

We recently created a new page that brings together our health equity work across three areas, including advancing diversity in healthcare, creating health tech solutions, and removing barriers to health in communities – you can access this new resource [here](#). [More](#)

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### INNOVATING FOR ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY



#### Making Health Tech Work for All: Democratizing, Decentralizing and Digitizing Care

Many people who could benefit from health advances are left behind, and it's clear that scientific innovation alone can't fill the gap. In a blog for Aspen Ideas: Health, Abbott's Lisa Earnhardt discusses emerging solutions, including prioritizing access and affordability. [More](#)



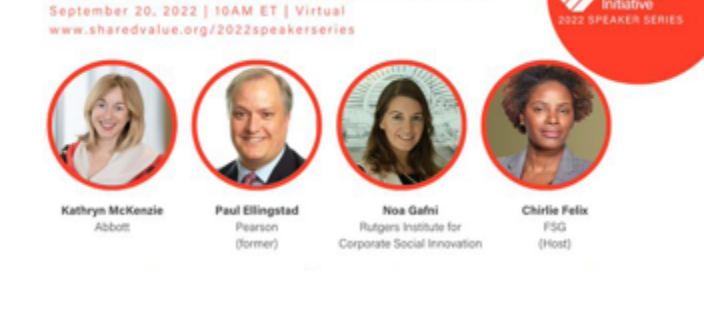
#### Nurturing Healthier Living in a "Care Desert"

Rural and other under-resourced communities often have limited access to specialized medical services. Abbott is working to bring people and physicians physically together, conducting outreach and screenings, and developing remote care technology like our NeuroSphere Virtual Clinic. [More](#)



#### World's Smallest Heart Device Helps Newborn Hearts

We recently announced three-year data showing the positive impact of our Amplatzer Piccolo Occluder device on treating babies with a potentially life-threatening hole in the heart known as a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA). [More](#)



#### Transforming for Innovation and Access Through Shared Value

Abbott's Kathryn McKenzie joined other leaders at the Shared Value Initiative event, "Transformation for Innovation and Access." She discussed how Abbott is evolving and embracing change to innovate for access and affordability and advance equity. [More](#)



#### Virus Hunters Map How COVID-19 Variants Travel

In a [study](#) in the journal *Virus Evolution*, one of our [Pandemic Defense Coalition](#) partners and Abbott's virus hunters report on work to track SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in Senegal over six months to better understand what factors influence how the virus moves and evolves over time. [More](#)



#### Using Tech to Combat Depression

An estimated 2.8 million U.S. adults live with depression that does not respond to treatment. Now, Abbott is investigating the use of its deep brain stimulation (DBS) system to see if it can offer meaningful improvement in not only their symptoms, but their lives overall. [More](#)



#### Testing as a Strategy to End the HIV Epidemic

The SDGs include an ambitious target to end the HIV epidemic by 2030. However, HIV testing has declined 22% compared to pre-pandemic levels. Expanding access to fast, reliable and accurate self-testing can support HIV elimination goals. Find out how our HIV self-tests can help people to get health answers when and where they need them. [More](#)

## ADVANCING EQUITY



#### Moving from Disaster Relief to Disaster Resilience

Hurricanes Fiona and Ian are the latest examples of how extreme weather events cause great hardships to those with the least resources. To help, Abbott is working with trusted partner organizations to expand beyond preparedness, response and recovery to also focus on building resilience – which is already helping communities in Florida and Puerto Rico. [More](#)



#### Real Madrid Gives Summer School a Kick

Abbott and the Real Madrid Foundation recently hosted a social clinic in Stockton, California for kids that helped build soccer skills while educating on healthy choices. The event is part of a broader partnership between Abbott and the Foundation to educate, support, nourish and develop kids around the world across all geographies, cultures, and backgrounds. [More](#)



#### Sharpened Focus: A Vision for Improved Clinical Trials

Dr. Lyssa Ochoa is bringing a fresh perspective and greater inclusion to community-based cardiovascular research through her practice, the San Antonio Vascular and Endovascular (SAVE) Clinic. Hear her inspiring story, and learn how we're collaborating with her to help make research more inclusive. [More](#)

## WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW



#### Mackenzie's Personal STEM Story: A Second Chance at Life

Everything changed for Mackenzie the night she learned a new heart was available, giving her a second chance at life. She decided to study STEM after becoming fascinated with cardiology during her treatment. Now at Abbott, she works with other female scientists and engineers, and helps people with cardiovascular diseases. [More](#)



#### To Attract Workers, Companies Need To Invest in Upskilling

An op-ed by Abbott's Mary Moreland discusses why employers need to make "upskilling" initiatives a priority. Abbott's FreeU program helps employees earn bachelor's degrees at no cost and on flexible schedules. And our 'Learning Gigs' program lets employees volunteer for special career development assignments. [More](#)



#### Fast Company Best Workplaces for Innovators

Fast Company recently announced its Best Workplaces for Innovators and Abbott was honored to be named one of four companies that "have created a corporate infrastructure to provide innovation opportunities for employees just getting started in their careers." [More](#)

## SPOTLIGHT



### FUNDACIÓN Real Madrid

The [Real Madrid Foundation](#) is the instrument by which the [Real Madrid Football Club](#) is present in society and develops its social and cultural awareness programs. Its main objective is to bring the social, cultural, and athletic values of the club (such as responsibility, discipline, solidarity, among others) into the service of the public and be a universal benchmark when it comes to the use of sport as a tool both for education and social integration.

As the [Real Madrid Football Club's](#) partner for Health Sciences and Nutrition and global partner of the [Real Madrid Foundation](#), Abbott and our [Center for Malnutrition Solutions](#) – a collection of internal and external nutrition experts – have joined together to reduce malnutrition and promote education through sport around the world.

Abbott and the Real Madrid Foundation are drawn together by a shared calling to do our part to help lift up at-risk children around the world. When kids are properly nourished from the beginning, they can begin to learn values and skills to conquer life's challenges and seize its opportunities. Our three-year partnership has already led to many great collaborations, including implementing the Future Well Kids curriculum – provided by the Abbott Fund – into Real Madrid Foundation Social Sports Projects. The curriculum teaches kids about noncommunicable (chronic) diseases and ways they can stay healthy and reduce their risk of developing chronic diseases later in life, introducing good nutrition, exercise, hydration and getting enough sleep. We're also introducing malnutrition screening using the [MUAC z-score tape](#) into our shared programming.

For more information on the Real Madrid Foundation, visit their [website](#), and for more on our work together, see our [dedicated partnership page](#).

## WHAT'S NEXT

- Abbott's Chairman and CEO Robert Ford will be at the Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose (CECP) 10th CEO Investor Forum at the 2022 AdvaMed MedTech Conference on Oct. 26 to talk about Abbott's business-focused sustainability strategy and the future of access and affordability, joining other Abbott leaders and top medtech executives and innovators from around the world.
- On Oct. 11, Abbott's CIO Sabina Ewing will speak on a panel titled "Harnessing Technology for Positive Human Impact" at the Reuters Momentum conference.
- On Nov. 17, Abbott's Kathryn McKenzie will moderate a panel on advancing health equity at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's annual corporate citizenship conference, Business Solves.



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