

SPINE Summer School 2025

Innovating and elevating nursing & healthcare: Bridging science and business – Hackathon

Lausanne, August 18-21

Join us at SPINE Summer school 2025, where international scholars and PhD students come together for a four-day hands-on program exploring how innovation and entrepreneurship can improve healthcare.

Using a *hackathon-style* approach, you'll learn how to turn an idea into a prototype to develop an educational or communication-based solution to a problem that supports patients or nurses.

What to expect:

- Inspiring talks and real-world examples
- Team-based work to find a solution to a healthcare challenge, either for hospital or community settings
- Guidance from expert mentors
- Tools to develop and practice entrepreneurial methods
- Feedback from peers and professionals

What's a hackathon?

A fast-paced, collaborative event where teams work together to create practical solutions to real problems.

Who should attend?

Doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and other healthcare professionals interested in innovation and creativity to make a difference in healthcare by acquiring, developing, and practicing entrepreneurial methods.

11th SPINE Summer School

The SPINE Summer School is a four-day intensive course, conducted in English, that includes lectures and group work.

Learning objectives:

By end of the Summer School participants will:

1. Develop a healthcare innovation idea aiming to facilitate education or communication.
2. Apply entrepreneurial methods and practice skills, across 10 modules (outlined below)
3. Enhance their teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills

Module objectives:

1: Ideation & persona: Generate an idea for your solution and develop an understanding of the persona representing the target users

2: User journey: Understand the experience of target users to identify pain points and opportunities

3: Stake holder analysis: Identify and evaluate the roles, needs, and influences of various stakeholders

4: Value proposition and differentiation: Define the unique value of the proposed solution and its differences over existing alternatives

5: Intellectual property and patents: Understand how to protect innovations through intellectual property rights and the patent process

6: Business model: Draft a business model

7: Features: Identify core features of the innovation

8: Prototyping: Design an initial prototype of the healthcare innovation

9: Presenting skills/pitching: Refine communication and pitching skills for presenting the innovation

10: Exploring entrepreneurial pathways: Learn about different avenues for entrepreneurship through a panel discussion

Organizers

SPINE is an educational platform for doctoral students working towards a PhD in Nursing Science at the Universities of Lausanne and Basel. SPINE provides educational courses and summer schools for doctoral students in nursing and other health-related disciplines, along with other events, such as the Doctoral Research Day.

SPINE Directors

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Faculty

KeyDr Lori Marshall



Lori Marshall is a nurse entrepreneur who has over 39 years' experience in program development, language-concordant care, patient care technology, healthcare administration, leadership, research, and education roles

working across inpatient, outpatient, and home health settings. Experience includes serving as CEO of a software development and digital health innovations company, director for a national home-based medical care company, and director of nursing for a home health agency in Southern California. Other experiences include serving as an Adjunct professor at the Keck School of Medicine, teaching leadership in the Master of Academic Medicine program and at the Master of Nursing program at UCLA's School of Nursing. Frequently invited to speak at conferences in the United States, Australia, China, and Italy, presenting on topics related to innovations, teams, healthcare equity and disparity, teamwork, quality, self-management and patient and family education.

Dr Kim Ellefsen-Lavoie

Kim Ellefsen is an experienced leader in clinical and translational research, currently heading the Sponsor Research Office at Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), which she established in 2020. With a background in immunology, infectious diseases, and immuno-oncology, she has overseen strategic, regulatory, and quality operations for over 300



investigator-initiated studies each year. Her career spans academic and industry settings in both Switzerland and Canada, with key contributions to the development of immune monitoring platforms and early-phase vaccine trials and immunotherapies. She has led large multidisciplinary

teams and clinical units, bringing expertise in protocol compliance, biobank oversight, financial planning, and stakeholder engagement. Committed to advancing clinical research excellence, she is also actively involved in training healthcare professionals and supporting institutional innovation.

Dr Jonas Pollard



Jonas Pollard is a Knowledge Transfer Manager at CHUV and UNIL, where he supports researchers in translating academic discoveries into impactful real-world applications. His work includes fostering industry partnerships, managing intellectual property, and guiding startup creation. Previously, he led the Hemolytics project, a startup project based on his PhD research, developing a low-cost, highly sensitive malaria diagnostic. He secured over CHF 1 million in funding and conducted preclinical field studies in Brazil. His background blends translational research, academic innovation, and the intersection of science, healthcare, and technology.

Prof Anne-Sylvie Ramelet



Anne-Sylvie Ramelet, RN, RSCN is Full Professor and Head of the PhD in nursing sciences programme at the IUFRS, Faculty of Biology and Medicine at the [University of Lausanne](https://www.unil.ch). She is also Nurse Consultant for Paediatric Nursing Research at the Department of woman, mother and child at the

University Hospital of Lausanne - CHUV. Prior to her academic career, she worked as a registered nurse in neonatal, paediatric and adult intensive care for more than 15 years mainly in Australia, but also in Switzerland.

Her multidisciplinary research and teaching focuses on children's pain and comfort, long-term outcomes of patients and families post-PICU, as well as family support in paediatric and neonatal critical care settings, and in general paediatrics. Using various research methodologies, her work focuses on developing family support interventions to empower families whose children are critically ill and meet their specific needs.

Facilitators:

Prof Michael Simon, University of Basel

Prof Franziska Zuniga, University of Basel

Dr Ibo MacDonald



Ibo MacDonald is a postdoctoral fellow in the Family and Child Centered Care Research Group at IUFRS, where she earned her PhD. She is a Canadian nurse with over 20 years of experience

dedicated to implementing evidence-based practices to improve patient/family and healthcare professional outcomes. Her doctoral project, "PERTINENCE," focused on designing an evidence-informed computerized clinical decision support tool that integrates the assessment of pain, sedation, delirium, and withdrawal for use in pediatric intensive care units.

Quitterie Pallain-Dulau



Former human resources executive in multinational companies, Quitterie Pallain-Dulau is a trainer, moderator, podcaster, comedian, and voice-over artist. With her versatile expertise, she supports professionals and corporate leaders in delivering impactful, engaging, and confident public speaking performances.

Information and registration details

Preparatory Work

Preparatory materials and daily readings will be provided via Moodle. A link and access code will be shared upon successful registration.

Venue

Lausanne, CHUV (Lausanne University Hospital)

Schedule

Details are provided in the full program, which will be shared upon successful registration.

Commitment and Credits

Participants are expected to attend all four days of the program

The program provides **2 ECT** credits

Target Group and Eligibility

Doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty members, and researchers from nursing science and healthcare disciplines.

Registration – Deadline July 3rd

- Please register via this [link](#)

Course Fees*

Groups	Fee (CHF)
PhD students, postdocs, academics affiliated with SPINE (INS, UNIL)	Free
PhD students and postdocs <i>not affiliated</i> with SPINE, INS/UNIL alumni, PPHS	720
Other participants	1,120

*The course fee includes course materials. Registration is conditional upon full payment of fees.

**To qualify for the PhD fee, applicants not affiliated with SPINE are required to submit a letter from their supervisor stating their actual position as a doctoral student.

Payment

Payment is by invoice, and fees are due within three weeks of notification of acceptance and must be received no later than July 10th.

Terms, Conditions, and Cancellation Policy

- Seating is limited to 40 participants, and all must attend the full 4-day course. Applicants are selected on a first-come, first-served basis, and only complete applications will be considered.
- Confirmation of acceptance will be via email by July 17th.
- In case of cancellation, a written notification is required, and a service fee of CHF 50 will be charged.
- Refunds will not be possible after July 30th.
- The organization reserves the right to make minor program modifications.

Contacts for Questions

For scientific questions:

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For administrative questions:

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