

Question Mariella Graziano:

How can one best adjust the ParkinsonNet model to each specific region with their needs, requirements etc?

The key is to 1st listen to the needs in a specific country, and to then see which of the ingredients offered by our approach might offer an answer for those questions. And obviously we also look at what is already a strong element in a particular country or region, which in some cases is much better than what we have to offer, so we learn in return! So rather than using a one size fits all approach, we adjust our services to each specific situation.

Question Markus Britschgi, Roche:

How can ParkinsonNet contribute to bring patients closer to disease modifying clinical trials?

That is a very good question. I think this is the reason why Google decided to collaborate with us. We have a unique infrastructure to recruit representative patients at a high pace, and to also follow up each individual careful detail, within their own home environment. That creates excellent opportunities for disease modifying trials.

Question Nico Diederich:

Is this integration not the classical role of the GP? And what is the difference between precision vs evidence-based medicine: how can we assure that we know if something helps the individual if so far we considered statistics in larger groups as evidence?

The GP obviously plays a crucial role in health care. Our approach only offers a solution for complicated Parkinson specific questions, but most patients typically have multiple chronic conditions. This is where the GP will always remain the leading figure. One of the greatest challenges in health care is to couple specialised care to generalists like the GP.

Evidence based medicine is typically based on clinical trials. These are clearly very valuable, but are also biased in medications. For example because of the inclusion and exclusion have strict criteria. This is my observational studies in large cohorts, ideally where N is all, offer complimentary evidence to what is seen in clinical trials.