

### Speaker profiles



#### **Gary Saunders**

Human Data Coordinator, ELIXIR

Gary is the ELIXIR Human Data Coordinator at ELIXIR. He leads the implementation of the ELIXIR-wide strategy to enable responsible sharing of human data consented for reuse in scientific research. A major focus of this role is in working with the three ELIXIR Human Data Communities (Federated Human Data, Rare Diseases, and human Copy Number Variation) in order to ensure that all data generated is compliant with the FAIR data principles, and to coordinate these efforts with the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health (GA4GH).

Gary joined ELIXIR from EMBL-EBI where he was the data manager for the European Variation Archive (EVA), and the Database of Genomics Variants Archive (DGVA). Gary has a PhD in Bioinformatics from the University of Glasgow, UK, and has a background in comparative genomics.



#### **Gianni D'Errico M.Sc. EMBA candidate**

International Project Officer and EU Affair Officer at Toscana Life Sciences

Gianni is International Project Officer and EU Affair Officer at Toscana Life Sciences, the main regional player and policy support agency in Tuscany Region. He obtained his degree cum laude in International Relations At Napoli University Federico II. He obtained his Post Graduate master's degree in Project Management in Rome and a certification in IP Management at University of Bonn (DE). He is currently EMBA candidate at Bologna Business School (University of Bologna).

He started his professional experience in Brussels managing R&D projects within FP7 in the Energy and Environment Sector. In 2013, he moved in Slovenia where he has gained an extensive experience on the R&D project in Health and Biotech Sector for the main international players (Novartis, Sandoz, Lek, Merck, Millipore, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, etc.). In 2015, he moved to Milan where he held the position of the European Funding Officer at Regional Foundation for Biomedical research.



## **Professor Maritta Perälä-Heape**

Professor of practice in data-enabled health care solutions and innovation ecosystems; Director, Centre for Health and Technology (CHT), Faculty of Medicine, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland

Maritta is managing the strategic R&D&I collaboration between academia, business and public healthcare sector (OuluHealth ecosystem) and leading Ouluhealth program -Data and solutions as a resource for society as part of proactive and supportive health care.

She is actively contributing to the policies on health-related data practices and competence building in exploiting the next generation data sets for the development of future predictive service provisions. The current focus is in building national research and innovation knowledge Hub (DigiHealth Hub) in Finland, and creating synergies with European innovation partnerships and smart specialization strategies. She acts as an expert in several national and international boards and steering groups.

