Alive Learning Forum Summary: A Living Community in Action – Celebrating One Year of the Alive Learning Forum!

Chair: Ruth Stewart Director of Alive at Future Evidence Foundation

Speaker(s): Cristian Mansilla Head of Learning of Alive at Future Evidence Foundation.

Panelists: Racha Fadlallah Senior Policy Advisor at American University of Beirut
Daniela García Villamil Independent Researcher-Colombia
Josephine Watera Assistant Director Research Services for Parliament of Uganda
Firmaye Bogale. Public health Researcher at Ethiopian Public Health Institute
Frederik Dejonghe, Research Associate at Insper

Brief Summary

This session marked the first anniversary of the Alive Learning Forum and reflected on the growth of the forum as a living community supporting learning, collaboration, and exchange across the living evidence ecosystem. The session included a presentation introducing reflections from the first year of the forum, a panel discussion with the forum co-chairs, and the launch of the Living Evidence Atlas.

Presentation from Olivia Urquhart

Olivia discussed the transformative role of living guidelines in oral health, emphasizing that traditional update cycles (often every five years) lead to low validity because individual recommendations become outdated at different rates.Core Problems: Traditional systematic reviews are the most expensive and time-consuming part of guideline development, and static documents cannot keep pace with rapidly emerging scientific evidence.The Living Solution: Instead of updating an entire overarching document, living guidelines focus on updating individual recommendations as soon as new evidence becomes available.

Panel Discussion with the Co-Chairs

The panel discussion brought together the Forum co-chairs—Firmaye, Daniela, Racha, Frederik, and Josephine — to reflect on lessons learned from establishing and sustaining the Alive Learning Forum as a living community in practice. The discussion focused on the importance of creating inclusive and collaborative spaces where participants from different regions and roles within the evidence ecosystem can learn from one another.

Panelists reflected on how the Forum has enabled connections between initiatives and individuals who might otherwise work in isolation, helping to strengthen shared understanding of living evidence approaches. The discussion highlighted the value of collective leadership and shared responsibility in maintaining momentum, as well as the importance of ensuring that the Forum remains responsive to the needs and interests of its members.

A recurring theme in the discussion was the idea that living communities, much like living evidence, require continuous engagement and adaptation. The co-chairs noted the importance of openness to new ideas, ongoing dialogue, and learning from diverse experiences in order to sustain relevance over time. The panel also reflected on the role of the Forum in fostering collaboration across initiatives and contributing to broader efforts aimed at improving the effective and equitable use of evidence.

Special Launches

As part of the session, Cristian introduced the Living Evidence Atlas as a new initiative supporting the living evidence ecosystem. The Atlas was presented as a resource designed to map and connect all living evidence efforts, enabling users to explore ongoing work and identify opportunities for collaboration and learning.

Participants were invited to access the Atlas online and to contribute suggestions or additions through the platform or by contacting the team directly, reinforcing the collaborative and evolving nature of the initiative and its alignment with the principles of living evidence.

Additionally, a special mini-series about AI was also launched. Hence, during 2026, the Alive Learning Forum will bring an AI-related topic every quarter to discuss its challenges and opportunities.

Questions and Contributions from the Audience

Audience engagement included reflections and questions on how the Living Evidence Atlas could continue to grow and how community members could contribute to its development. Participants expressed appreciation for the initiative and highlighted the importance of collective contributions in strengthening living evidence systems. One reflection noted that continuously collected stories and experiences could play a role in helping update evidence systems in real time, aligning with the broader theme of living and adaptive evidence approaches.

Close

The session concluded with congratulations from participants to the Alive team on the first anniversary of the Alive Learning Forum and appreciation for the continued efforts to create spaces that support learning, collaboration, and more effective and equitable use of evidence. Participants were encouraged to remain engaged with future sessions and ongoing initiatives within the Alive Learning Forum community.

- The recordings of the session can be accessed on youtube: Here
- Our youtube channel : Here
- Our website: https://aliveevidence.org/
- Our LinkedIn: Here
- To join the Alive Learning Forum, please sign up Here.
- Any questions? Reach out at coordinator@aliveevidence.org

- The next session: **Living evidence guidelines: Challenges and opportunities in using evidence outputs for always up-to-date recommendations.**