

Community engagement across the research continuum: SMART4TB's model

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Outline

- What is SMART4TB?
- Community engagement in SMART4TB
- From theory to practice



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What is SMART4TB?



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SMART4TB

Supporting, Mobilizing, and Accelerating Research for Tuberculosis Elimination (SMART4TB) is a USAID Cooperative Agreement to accelerate progress in treating and preventing tuberculosis in high-burden countries

- A large consortium of leading researchers, educators, policy experts, and public health advocates from across the globe
- Up to USD \$200 million over five years (2022-2027)



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Our partners



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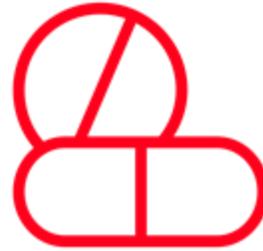


SMART4TB
Consortium

Our areas of work



Diagnostics



Therapeutics



Vaccine Preparedness



Operational Research



Capacity Strengthening



Policy Translation &
Community Engagement



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Our mission

Advance Research

Identify more effective methods to find, treat, and prevent TB



Drive Policy Change

Work with WHO and TB programs and national governments to achieve End TB goals

Strengthen Local Capacity

Develop implementing partner and regional collaborative capacity for designing and conducting high quality research



Engage Communities

As partners, to build demand for new tools and interventions



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Community engagement in SMART4TB

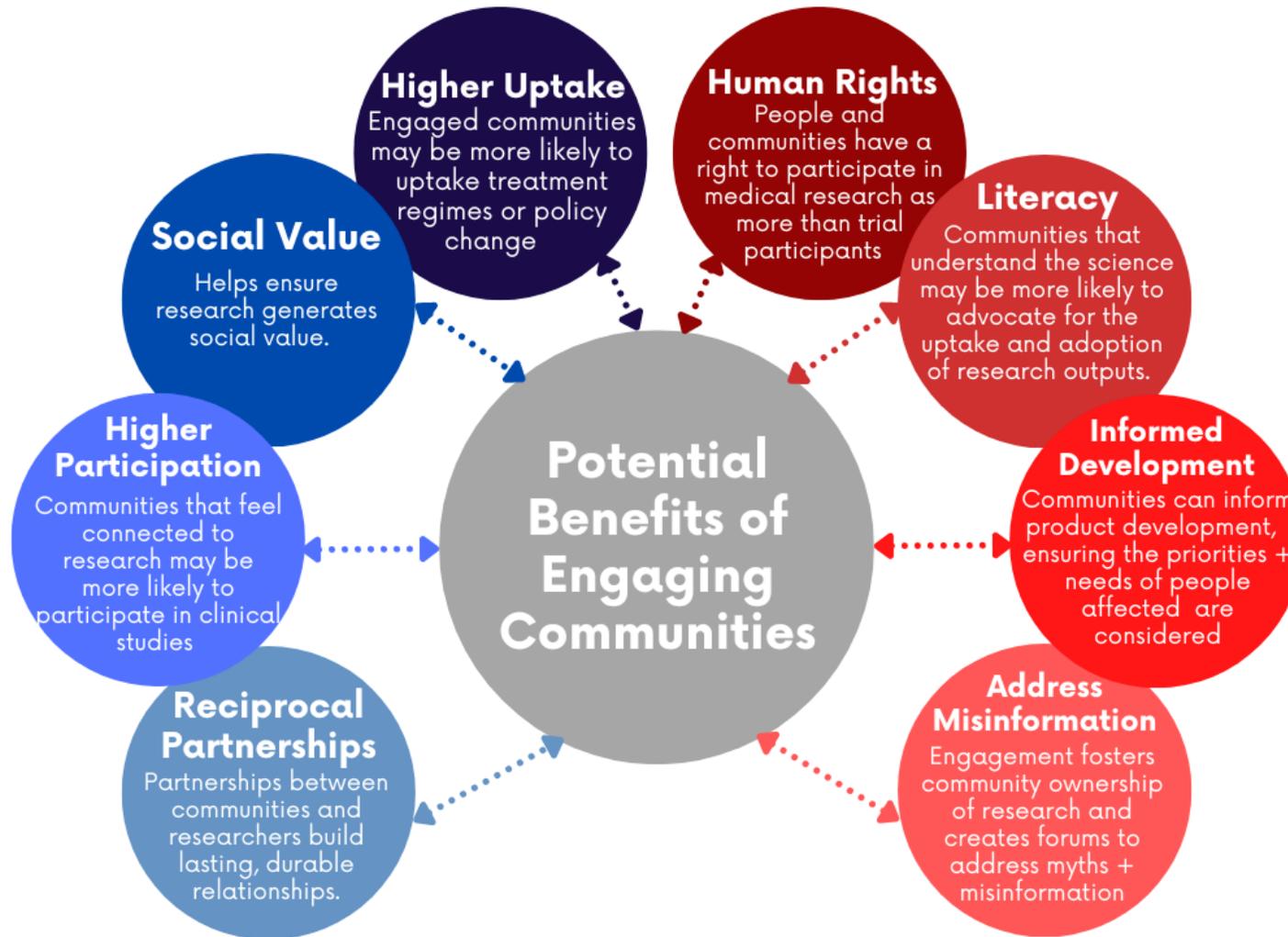


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The “why”



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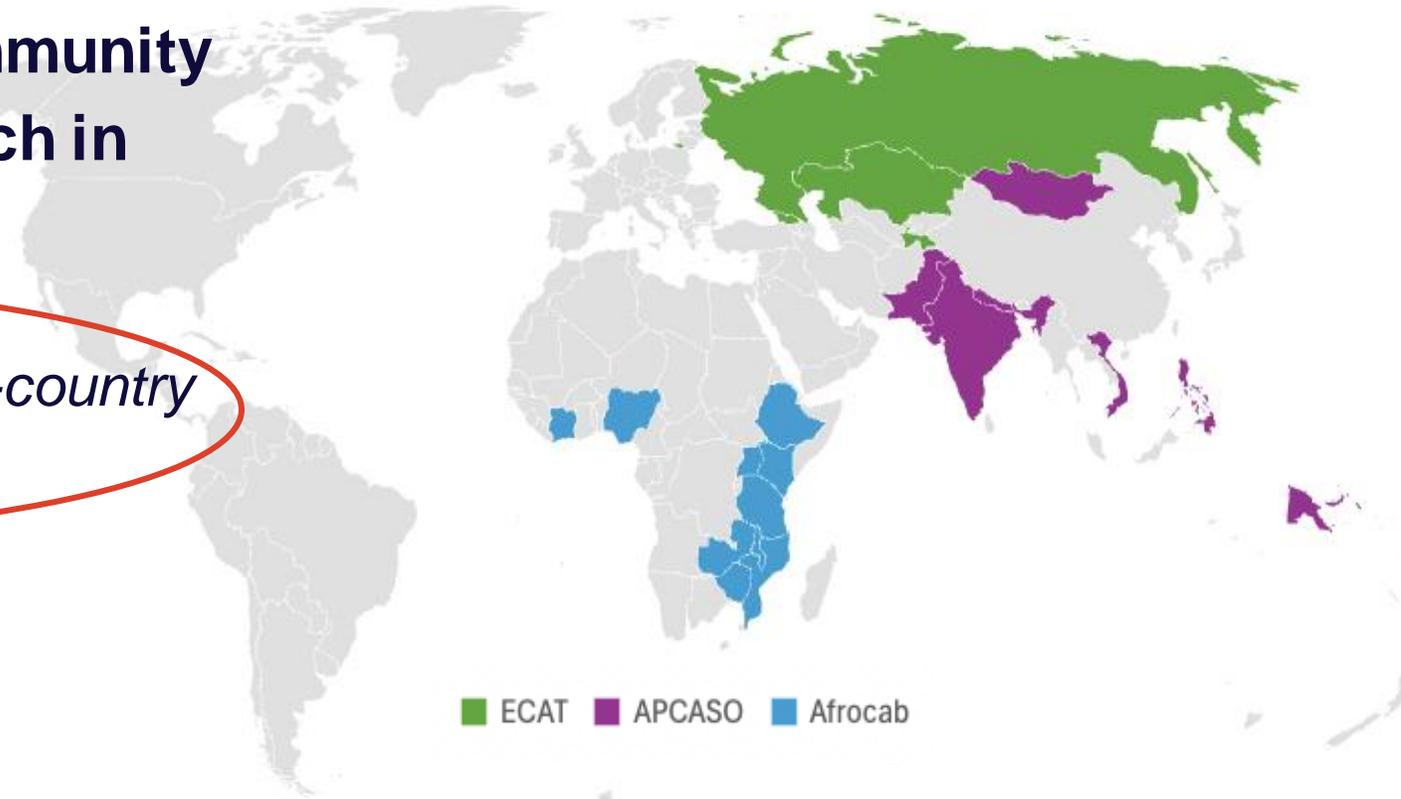
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The “who”

Three levels of Community Advisory Boards (CABs) are facilitating community engagement in SMART4TB research in collaborative and distinct ways:

- *SMART4TB-coordinated multi-country Regional CABs (rCABs)*
- *Global TB CAB*
- *Site-Level CABs*



AFROCAB



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The “how”

Community Engagement is core to all SMART4TB activities

- **rCABs are the primary mechanism** for community engagement within SMART4TB
- rCABs are the **nexus point for interactions** with broader constituency of community and civil society stakeholders
- Researchers will **work with all three levels of CABs to ensure SMART4TB research is community-informed and needs-driven**
- CABs will **help drive the translation of research into policy** and generate demand for effective policies in their region and around the world



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The “how”

Table 1. Division of CAB Activities and Responsibilities

	rCABs	Global TB CAB	Site-Level CABs
SMART4TB Agenda Setting Activities	✓	Maybe*	
Protocol Team Membership	✓		
Protocol Review	✓	✓	
Study Schedule of Events	Maybe*		✓
Review of Proposals or Technologies	✓		
Informed Consent Form Review	Maybe*		✓
Recruitment materials, including posters and scripts	Maybe*		✓
Site-Level Community Capacitation	Maybe*		✓
Trial Implementation	Maybe*		✓
Results Dissemination Plan	✓	✓	✓
Paper Authorship	✓		Maybe*
Policy Translation	✓	✓	✓
Demand Generation Activities	✓	✓	✓

How SMART4TB studies engage across the three levels of CABs



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The “what” : supporting TB research literacy via CABLab

Capacity strengthening not just for early-stage investigators but for community as well

- CABLab is a first-ever online course on TB research designed for affected communities and civil society
- First cohort of rCAB graduates from CABLab with very positive feedback and test scores
- Plans in progress to “democratize” CABLab beyond SMART4TB, including through translation into multiple languages, the addition of rCAB-led modules, and making materials publicly available



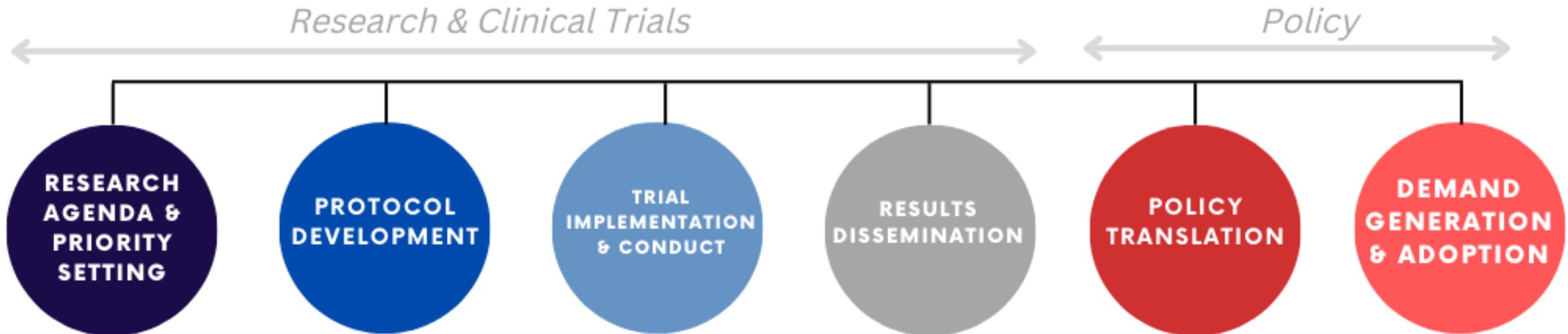
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The “what” : consistent, iterative, ongoing engagement

Community Engagement Across the Research to Policy Process



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From theory to practice



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rCABs influence research agenda



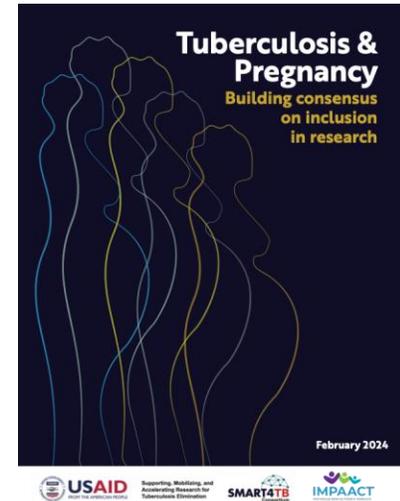
“We encourage [SMART4TB] to explore the inclusion of access conditions and safeguards in later stage agreements with selected diagnostic companies.”

“

“We applaud the inclusion of children and pregnant people” [in therapeutics trials]

“We encourage the inclusion of assessments to evaluate patient preferences, especially with respect to acceptability, tolerability, safety, efficacy, pill burden, duration of treatment [..]”

”



“We encourage SMART4TB to consider additional means for navigating the language barriers [...] including expanding the budget available to support materials and simultaneous translations [..].”



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rCABs influence trial protocols & more



- Reviewed and provided comments on the draft protocols for two of SMART4TB's therapeutics trials and will do the same for all trials
- Representatives on the various trial protocol teams
- Participating in selection process for the next phase of SMART4TB's diagnostic tech scouting work
- Reviewing study instruments designed to better understand and characterize the factors that may affect acceptance of future TB vaccines



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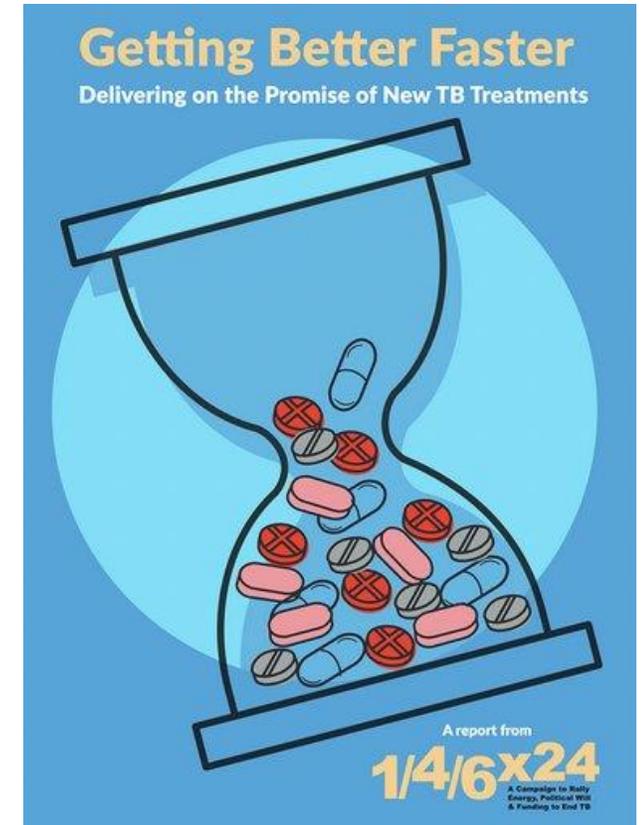


rCABs drive national advocacy work

- Supporting regional launches of the 1/4/6x24 mid-campaign report within their networks
- Creating forums for discussions to identify local advocacy opportunities
- Elevating 1/4/6x24 in meetings with country representatives and advocating for uptake of the regimens at the regional and national levels.
- Broaching 1/4/6x24 regimen and diagnostics access issues in discussions with drug and diagnostics companies

DEMAND
GENERATION
& ADOPTION

POLICY
TRANSLATION



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We are only just getting started!

Check Yourself: Are You Taking the Needed Steps for Community Engagement in Research?

Study implementation

- Liaise with any relevant site-level CABs, particularly to capacitate and sensitize local community to the study and/or review any additional study materials?
- Notify rCABs, site-level CABs, and other community groups of any relevant changes / issues?
- Problem solved with rCAB and/or site-level CAB members if the study runs into recruitment or study retention issues?
- Work with TA7 and regional CABs to consider and plan early to address access considerations?

Post-trial

- Develop plan for participant/community-facing results dissemination in collaboration with TA7, rCABs and site-level CABs, as relevant? Including consideration of CAB member authorship roles for any publications?
- Share results with site-level CABs, rCABs and trial participants?
- Support community groups, rCABs, and TA7 in their efforts to advocate for uptake of findings in policy and practice?
- Engage with TA7 as needed to support translation of evidence into policy change?

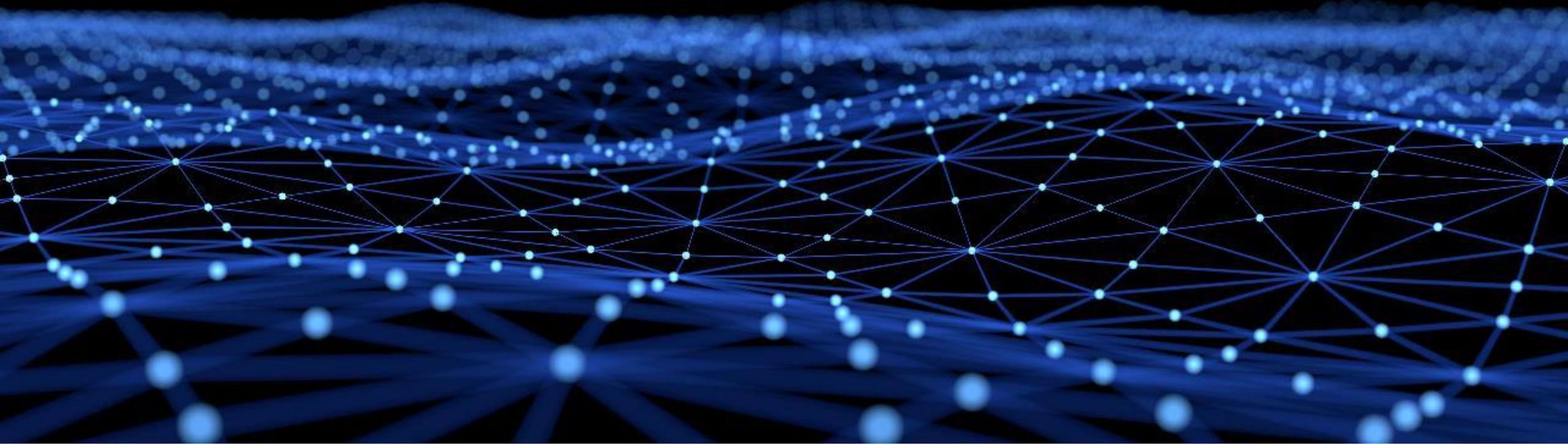


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Graphic Slide



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Thank you!

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