



Changemakers Podcast episode 8 transcript – “Saving Lives With Data” part 2

Published 17 May 2022
Hosts Omar Abbosh, will.i.am
Guest Terry Myerson, CEO, [Truveta](#)

Omar Abbosh

[MUSIC]

Hello, my name is Omar Abbosh, and I am the Corporate Vice President of Industry Solutions at Microsoft.

will.i.am

And I'm will.i.am, entrepreneur, philanthropist, musician and producer, and my mother's son.

And this is Changemakers.

Omar

There are a lot of people around the world driving change that impacts society. In this series, we'll share stories of transformation directly from the leaders themselves who made the change. We'll talk about their obstacles, their triumphs, their learnings, and how technology has accelerated their mission.

Truveta officially launched in September 2020 at the height of the pandemic, with the mission to drive innovation and patient care. CEO Terry Myerson joins us to discuss how technology is empowering health systems to save lives with data.

will.i.am

So what about, you know, your daily data? What you consume, how you respond to stress—that data is what leads to you then going to the hospital. So what about your activity data?

**Terry
Myerson**

I think these wearables are really collecting some really interesting data. You know, today we don't have wearable data in Truveta. But it would be pretty exciting to be able to bring together that information. I think your heart rate and your stress would correlate, your daily diet would correlate, there's a number of things, you know, we have this information on your socioeconomic status, your level of education, your access to transportation, your homelessness status—we get all that from LexisNexis. We have your clinical events, we have your visits to the doctor. It's all deidentified, it's all anonymous. But we see the clinical events where we see what the doctor said.

But that daily data, Will, of what's going on in your life with your diet or your stress or your activities, we currently don't have that and it would be very interesting.

Will

My iPhone tracks me better than my wearable. It knows my steps. It also knows what I bought through Uber Eats and Postmates. So it knows my consumption, it knows my stress and what I've been chatting about on these communication platforms.

Terry

It knows about you, what it doesn't know is about everyone *like* you. You know, Truveta's been built off a series of industry partnerships with health providers, with LexisNexis, with Microsoft. That daily data—a little intimidated by the scale of it.

Will

No it's a transformational thing when you work out, like, how that daily data doesn't infringe on peoples' civil liberties and privacy, and it's to empower the individual and the communities that they live. It's a different flip and take on it as far as the practice to get everyone to be able to trust. Trust is the new currency moving forward.

Terry

Well I think we've all had these situations in our families where someone had some very unique care situation. The doctors today have to search their own experiences and say, "have I seen a patient like this before? And what has worked?" And I think, you know, what excites me so much is the idea that you could search the world and say, "has anyone, has this ever been encountered before?" You know, show me groups of people—I don't need to know anyone name, I don't need to know anyone's phone number—but show me what the groups of people like me or like my loved one. And what were they diagnosed within this situation? And what therapeutic path did they take? And what side effects did they have? And what outcomes did they achieve with the data? And I think that would be such an amazing moment.

Will

What about environmental data like the conditions that people live in? The projects that I was raised in, as I moved out we realized that people started getting sick in the

community that I come from. And I have a robotics program in my projects and stories have been coming out that people were getting terribly sick. Turns out, there was lead in the grass. They had to dig up the grass and the dirt. So, how far is Truveta away from also aggregating data, GIS data, where people live and the conditions of their communities?

Terry Aspirationally, I would say two things:

We want to bring transparency to situations like you just described. We want to empower others to do the research and ask the questions and look for these situations proactively and perhaps use AI to monitor for them, so the AI could find these situations.

Aspirationally, we wanna be the platform that empowers people to ask and answer those questions, to bring those datasets in, to monitor for those changes. But, you know, we're a couple of years of work away and just got a lot of work to do.

Will Yeah, I I think about, like, I compare it to the other industry that I had success in to move my family out: music. At one point in time, music was, like, data all over the place. And now you're able to go in and see where your listeners are at with streaming, and it's a little bit more centralized now. And to see how the healthcare—I know it's so far extreme as far as the world of music and making content and knowing when people listen and the best time to release something and how to route your tour and the finances around that—but for the health care system to be just a little bit more organized is really, really promising and awesome. So, once again, thank you.

Omar Thank you so much, Terry. It's been really awesome to hear about your and Truveta's journey.

Terry Well, I'm honored to be here. Thanks so much for having me.

[MUSIC]
