

R&E Current Events Seminar: AI in Pharmacy

11/1/2023

Start time: 6:05 PM

End time: 6:35 PM

[Link to slides](#)

Logistics of Current Events Seminars

- Discussion about current pharmacy topics
- Participate in small discussions to receive credit for the R&E meeting!
- Discuss in small groups about topics first, then discuss with entire group
 - Anyone is free to share their answer (or comments) to the discussion questions
- Can disagree with other people's opinions, but please be respectful of their opinions!

Benefits & Challenges of AI

- **Article:** "[The Rise of AI in Pharmacy Practice Presents Benefits and Challenges](#)"
 - **What AI helps with in the pharmacy**
 - Management of medication
 - Personalizing medications for individual patients using databases
 - More efficiency with lower error
 - **Challenge of using AI in the pharmacy**
 - Needs to be programmed in way where it abides by HIPAA + pharmacy laws (differs by state)
- **Discussion Questions**
 1. Do you think, if implemented, that AI will impact job opportunities for those in the pharmaceutical industry?
 - Person 1: AI will impact retail-level more than hospital/clinical-level
 - Replaces clerk position (AI acts as vending machine)
 2. Do you believe implementing AI world-wide will impact medicine in a negative/positive way?
 - Person 1: not sure how public will react to AI being used as a "vending machine" (will they be angry or not?)

AI Allows for Better Patient Care

- **Article:** "[AI Gives Pharmacists More Time for Patient Care](#)"
 - AI tools can automate repetitive + data-oriented tasks (e.g. data entry)
 - Allows pharmacists to handle more complex tasks (e.g. patient care)

- Pharmacists can focus on directly help patients with lessened workload
- AI can help medication counseling with direct access to patient background, side effects, etc.
- **Discussion Questions**
 1. Do you think the effectiveness of AI help will vary from retail to clinical to industrial pharmacy?
 - Person 1: AI will be utilized more in retail setting compared to clinical/industry
 2. Do you think AI help will be integrated nationwide, or even possibly mandated, in pharmacies in the near future? Why or why not?
 - Person 1: possibility that AI will be implemented or mandatory at certain level
 - Reduces many errors in pharmacy (currently a big problem)
 - Person 2: helps with repetitive tasks but a little uncomfortable with AI writing prescriptions from scratch
 - Pharmacists should still verify data entry
 - Don't think AI will be mandated given current technology
 - Person 3: impossible for AI to do everything + patients won't be comfortable with it either
 - Agrees that pharmacists should still verify
 - AI can help with busy work to allow pharmacists to spend more time for patient care (e.g. direct counseling, PCP calls)

AI and the Pharmacist Career

- **Article:** "[Why AI Will Never Eliminated the Need for Pharmacists](#)"
 - AI can replace many traditional pharmacy tasks but pharmacist roles are also rapidly evolving (e.g. immunizations)
 - AI can't provide compassion + immediate flexible problem solving tailored to patients
 - AI will be helpful in alleviating some burden of pharmacists
 - Pharmacist role can shift more towards patient counseling
 - AI can do more basic, menial tasks
- **Discussion Questions**
 1. Can you think of any other pharmacist roles that AI wouldn't likely be able to replace?
 - Person 1: more retail side of things can be replaced by AI
 - EX: instead of talking with the clerk, maybe you will use a kiosk (can go to the pharmacist for questions regarding medications)

- Person 2: AI can be used for less interactive things
- 2. If given the opportunity and ability to, would you invest in AI in pharmacy settings? Why or why not?
 - Person 3: still skeptical of including AI in pharmacy setting
 - Don't know how safe / protected the information will be
 - Important because patient's info is being stored
 - Person 2: there's a risk of the information being breached