Maintaining *Humanity* in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

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**Background**

The benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in medicine are unquestionable and it is unlikely that the pace of its development will slow down. From better diagnosis, prognosis, and prevention to more precise surgical procedures, AI has the potential to offer unique opportunities to enhance patient care and improve clinical practice.

**Question**

*Will AI re-humanize or de-humanize medicine?*

Will AI allow clinicians to spend less time on administrative tasks and technology related procedures and more time being present in person to attend to the needs of their patients? Or will AI dramatically increase the presence of smart technology in the clinical context to a point of undermining the humane dimension of the patient–physician relationship?

**Six Imperatives**

**Foundation**

*Humanity*: promoting human interaction, respecting personal identity, and serving human ends

**Engaging with Technology**

*Information*: gathering relevant information about AI

*Transparency*: communicating risks and benefit of AI

**Engaging with Patients**

*Participation*: including all stakeholders for analysis of ethical, social, and policy implications of AI

*Consensus*: establishing values and norms to determine standards of practice and public policy

**Engaging with the Medical Profession/Medical Education**

*Accountability*: fostering responsible development and implementation of AI in health care

**Discussion**

These six ethical imperatives counter the adoption of a pragmatist and utilitarian approach that is emerging among the AI industry. The paradigm that is unfolding before us indicates the need to better consider questions concerning (1) the impact of technology on human identity, (2) the need for a foundational framework (anthropological, ethical, and legal) that will allow AI technology to evolve from research and development to the general public, and (3) the potential disruptive nature of AI on the patient-physician relationship.

**References**

This presentation has been adapted from the paper “Keeping the "Human in the Loop" in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” (Jotterand & Bosco, 2020)
Thank you