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FROM THE EDITOR

To AI and Beyond...

BY MARK LIU, MHA

In the ever-evolving landscape of cancer care, technological innovations continue to play a pivotal role in enhancing patient outcomes and driving progress. Among these innovations, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) has been making headlines as a transformative force, offering unprecedented opportunities for improving diagnosis, treatment, and research in the fight against cancer.

AI holds immense promise in revolutionizing various facets of oncology care. AI-powered diagnostic imaging is helping clinicians detect cancer, leading to earlier diagnosis and intervention. At the University of Colorado Cancer Center in Aurora, Colorado, enterprise intelligence software analyzes imaging results of all patients treated at UCHealth to identify and stratify those with high-risk findings. When a concerning abnormality is found, patients and providers are alerted to the finding, and patients are referred for additional follow-up. At Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey, an AI-driven incidental findings program identifies and then monitors pancreatic abnormalities to improve the quality of care to patients who are at increased risk for developing pancreatic cancer. Both programs received a 2024 ACCC Innovator Award, and you can hear how AI helped to improve patient outcomes at these 2 ACCC member programs by joining me at the ACCC 41st National Oncology Conference, Oct. 9-11, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

AI-driven predictive analytics also have the potential to support treatment planning and personalized medicine. By having AI analyze diverse datasets, including genomic profiles, treatment histories, and patient outcomes, it can create algorithms for tailored treatment recommendations, optimizing therapeutic strategies for individual patients based on their unique characteristics and disease trajectories.

In addition to diagnosis and treatment, AI has a role on impacting cancer research. By analyzing vast repositories of clinical and genomic data, AI algorithms can identify patterns and correlations, which not only accelerates the pace of discovery but also holds the promise of uncovering new targets for therapy and the underlying mechanisms of cancer progression.

As we embrace the potential of AI in oncology care, it is essential to navigate potential challenges and ethical considerations. Ensuring the reliability, transparency, and interpretability of AI algorithms is paramount to their successful integration into clinical practice. Moreover, safeguarding patient privacy and data security remains a critical priority in the era of AI-driven healthcare.

As we are on the cusp of this new era in oncology care, it is incumbent upon us to harness the power of AI responsibly and ethically while never losing sight of the human element of care delivery. By leveraging AI as a tool for augmenting clinical expertise, rather than replacing it, we can unlock new possibilities for improving outcomes and advancing the fight against cancer. If your cancer program or practice has experiences and/or insights into the transformative potential of AI in oncology care, share them by emailing the managing editor at mmarino@accc-cancer.org. Join the conversation, share your experiences, and help us navigate this exciting frontier together. OI