The Digital Stethoscope Newsletter
April 2025

"Amplifying innovation, one heartbeat at a time."

"Springing into Action: Cultivating AI Curiosity in Bloom"

April showers may bring May flowers, but here at *The Digital Stethoscope*, we're nurturing something even more transformative: curiosity. This month, we're leaning into the *"how"* of AI integration—how we teach it, talk about it, and, most importantly, how we *prompt* it.

Prompts are the seeds we plant to grow meaningful engagement with AI. Whether you're using ChatGPT to draft discussion questions, build simulations, or co-design student activities, crafting the right prompt can be the difference between a generic response and a game-changing insight. This month, we demystify the art and science of prompting so you can elevate your use of AI—without needing a degree in computer science.

Let's bloom where we're planted and prompt with purpose. This issue is packed with practical strategies, inspirational tools, and a dash of whimsy. As always, thank you for being part of this growing community of AI-curious nurse educators.

Dr. Susan Deane
Online Education Consultant

Spotlight Feature: *"Prompt Like Nobody's Watching"*

The art of talking to your AI bestie

Prompts are the backbone of productive AI interactions. A great prompt acts like a compass, guiding the AI to generate responses that are accurate, relevant, and tailored to your needs. But writing a good prompt isn't about knowing the perfect magic words—it's about knowing what you want and how to ask for it clearly.

🟢 **Green Light: Be Clear and Specific.**

Start by being direct: What do you want the AI to do? Instead of saying, "Explain AI," say, "Write a 150-word paragraph for nursing students explaining how AI is used in patient triage." The more detailed you are, the more helpful the output.

🟡 **Yellow Light: Context Is Key.**

Tell the AI who it's speaking to and what tone or format you want. Try: "Act as a nurse educator and create five quiz questions about ethical AI use in clinical decision-making. Use a friendly tone." Adding context helps the AI stay on track—and in character.

🔴 **Red Light: Don't Assume It Knows What You Know.**

Avoid vague terms like "make it good" or "you know what I mean." Instead, spell out your expectations: include citations, limit word count, simplify for a particular audience, or match a specific style. The more you guide the tool, the more it works for you—not the other way around.

With practice, you'll discover that prompting is less about perfection and more about *collaboration*. Your AI partner isn't just waiting to be told what to do—it's waiting to *co-create* with you. So go ahead—prompt like nobody's watching, and watch the magic happen.

Trending Topics: Prompt-Based Learning: A Powerful Pedagogical Pivot

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes an integral part of healthcare, nursing faculty must ensure that students are competent users of AI and critical thinkers who understand its ethical and practical implications. The role of AI in nursing extends beyond automation and efficiency—it intersects with patient safety, decision-making, equity, and professional accountability. Without proper education, AI has the potential to introduce biases, erode patient trust, and disrupt the human-centered nature of nursing care.. To address this, developers must prioritize diverse and representative datasets, conduct rigorous testing for bias, and implement mechanisms to ensure fairness in AI-driven decisions. Continuous monitoring and updates are critical to avoid unintended harm and ensure equitable care for all populations.

✍️ **What is Prompt-Based Learning?**

Prompt-based learning involves using structured questions or task statements—aka *prompts*—to engage with AI tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude (to name a few). Instead of memorizing facts, students are guided to explore, question, analyze, and even debate concepts in conversation with AI. The AI becomes a digital learning partner, not a shortcut, helping students explore "what if" scenarios, roleplay clinical conversations, or rephrase complex ideas.

In nursing education, prompt-based learning can support concept clarification ("Explain the pathophysiology of sepsis at a 5th-grade reading level"), reflection ("Compare how you felt during clinical week 1 vs. week 5"), or clinical judgment exercises ("Given this patient scenario, suggest questions a nurse should ask").

🎓 Why It Works in Nursing Education

Prompt-based learning supports key nursing competencies—critical thinking, clinical reasoning, communication, and adaptability. When students are asked to *create* prompts rather than passively receive content, they must think like educators, clinicians, and systems thinkers. They're no longer just answering questions—they're designing the questions.

This approach also helps *demystify AI*. When students experiment with prompting and analyze AI responses, they become better equipped to evaluate information, detect inaccuracies, and question bias—skills that are crucial for using AI responsibly in practice.

🚀 Getting Started: Small Prompts, Big Payoff

Faculty don't need to overhaul their courses to use prompt-based learning. Start with one discussion board: ask students to input a clinical prompt into ChatGPT, reflect on the AI's response, and discuss what was accurate or lacking. Or, assign students to co-create a care plan with AI, then revise it based on best-practice guidelines.

By embedding AI through prompts—not just as a tool, but as a partner—we open the door to a more dynamic, reflective, and engaged learning environment. Prompt-based learning is more than a trend. It's a pedagogical pivot—and it's tailor-made for the next generation of AI-ready nurses.

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Practical Insights: Prompting a Shift in Curriculum—Empowering Faculty Through AI-Enhanced Learning

As we continue exploring how to prepare students for an AI-enhanced healthcare environment, one area deserving immediate attention is faculty fluency in prompting—the art of giving AI the right input to produce valuable output.

While the emphasis has been on helping students work with AI tools, faculty development is the foundation. If educators are confident prompt writers, they can model and teach students to be *critical AI collaborators*—not just users.

That's why this month, we introduce a **Practical Prompt Lab** designed specifically for nursing faculty. This activity not only sharpens your own AI interaction skills but also helps you design

high-impact, student-facing prompts that build critical thinking, digital fluency, and clinical reasoning.

Faculty Prompt Lab: "Prompt Like a Pro"

Objective:
To explore how varying prompt structure influences the quality of AI responses—and how prompt design can be embedded in your teaching.

Step 1: Prompt Play

Pick a topic you teach (e.g., cultural humility, safe medication administration, therapeutic communication). Then, write three versions of a prompt that vary in clarity and detail:

1. Basic Prompt: "Explain safe medication administration."

2. More Specific Prompt: "List five key principles of safe medication administration for new nurses."

3. Structured & Role-Based Prompt: "Act as a clinical instructor. Write a 150-word explanation for first-semester students about safe medication administration, including common errors and prevention strategies."

Paste each into ChatGPT and compare responses.

Reflection Prompts:

- Which prompt gave you the most helpful output?

- How did tone, role, or specificity influence the AI's response?

- What would this look like as a student assignment?

Step 2: Course Connection

Now take one of your course learning outcomes and design a student-facing AI activity using a prompt.

Examples:

- "Use ChatGPT to generate a patient education plan for hypertension. Then edit and justify your changes using best practice guidelines."

- "Ask AI to simulate a nurse-patient dialogue around end-of-life care. Reflect on how the response aligns with therapeutic communication principles."

🛠 **Bonus Tip:** Ask ChatGPT to *improve* your prompt and critique its revision!

Step 3: Share & Scale

Create a department- or school-wide **Prompt Library**—a shared space where faculty contribute prompts and reflections. This will cultivate an ongoing culture of experimentation and innovation around AI.

Final Thought:
Just as students need guidance to become safe, ethical clinicians, faculty need space and tools to become confident AI educators. Prompting is a gateway skill—and this lab helps open the door.

Research/News Corner

Each month, I will share research, news, and other links that address AI in nursing, nursing education, and healthcare.

This month of April, I share the following:

The Prompt Planning Template for Faculty Guide is for you to craft, refine, and reflect on prompts that bring AI-enhanced learning into your nursing classroom.

Educator's Toolbox

Many generative AI tools can help with creating prompts. Here is some helpful resources:

AI for Education includes a Free AI Resource Center with a Prompt Library for Educators.

Closing Note

"Every breakthrough in nursing and healthcare education begins with a bold idea and the courage to embrace change. Let's innovate today for the caregivers of tomorrow."

See you next month!

Feedback: Please share your feedback, experiences, questions, and ideas or articles for upcoming issues. Send email to: thedigitalstethoscope@gmail.com