



## The Digital Stethoscope Newsletter February 2025

"Amplifying innovation, one heartbeat at a time."



As we move through February, we take a closer look at the growing role of artificial intelligence in nursing education and practice. AI is no longer just a futuristic concept—it's actively shaping how nurses learn, make decisions, and provide care. In this issue, we'll explore key advancements in AI-driven tools, discuss practical ways to integrate technology into nursing education and examine ethical considerations that come with these innovations. Whether you're just beginning to explore AI or already incorporating it into your work, this edition offers insights to help you stay informed and engaged in the future of nursing.

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### Spotlight Feature: A Faculty Perspective: Preparing AI-Literate Nurses



As nursing faculty, we are at the forefront of integrating AI into education while ensuring it enhances, rather than replaces, clinical judgment and critical thinking. Our role extends beyond introducing new technology—we must guide students in:

- **Understanding AI's Role in Patient Care:** AI should be a tool that supports nursing expertise, not a decision-maker. Students must learn when to trust AI recommendations and when to challenge them.
- **Developing Digital Literacy:** Future nurses need to critically evaluate AI-generated insights, recognizing potential biases and limitations in data-driven tools.

- **Balancing Technology with Human Touch:** Compassionate care and ethical decision-making remain at the heart of nursing. Faculty must emphasize that while AI can optimize efficiency, it cannot replace human connection.

With AI's growing presence in healthcare, faculty must be proactive in preparing students to navigate this evolving landscape. By embedding AI competencies into nursing curricula, we are ensuring that graduates enter the workforce with the skills to think critically, advocate for ethical AI use, and ultimately improve patient outcomes.

As we continue exploring AI's role in nursing education, one thing is clear: the future of nursing will not just be shaped by AI—it will be shaped by how we teach students to use it.



## **Trending Topics: Ethical and Practical Implications of AI: What Nursing Faculty Must Teach Students (Part I)**

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes an integral part of healthcare, nursing faculty must ensure that students are not only competent users of AI but also 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.

### **Key Ethical Considerations Nursing Faculty Must Address**

1. **AI Bias and Health Equity**
  - AI models are trained on historical data, which may reflect systemic biases in healthcare (e.g., racial, gender, or socioeconomic disparities).
  - Students must learn to identify and question biases in AI-generated recommendations and advocate for equitable patient care.
  - Faculty should incorporate case studies demonstrating how biased AI algorithms have led to disparities in healthcare delivery.
2. **Patient Privacy and Data Security**
  - AI relies on vast amounts of patient data, raising concerns about privacy, security breaches, and informed consent.
  - Students must be aware of HIPAA regulations, data encryption practices, and ethical considerations when using AI tools in clinical settings.
  - Faculty can include discussions on the risks of AI in electronic health records (EHRs), including data ownership and access rights.

### 3. Human Oversight and Accountability

- AI should support, not replace, clinical judgment. Nurses must critically evaluate AI recommendations rather than rely on them blindly.
- Teaching students about automation bias (the tendency to trust AI outputs without verification) is essential to prevent errors.
- Faculty should use simulation-based learning to illustrate scenarios where AI-generated recommendations must be questioned or overridden.

## Practical Insights: Integrating AI into Your Nursing Curriculum

## AI-Powered Clinical Decision Support in Nursing Assessment

**Course:** *Health Assessment & Clinical Judgment*



**Objective:** Teach students how to critically evaluate AI-generated clinical recommendations and integrate them into patient care while maintaining nursing judgment.

### Integration Strategy:

- Introduce AI-powered Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS), such as IBM Watson Health or Epic's AI-driven alerts in Electronic Health Records (EHRs).
- Provide a case study where students assess a patient with conflicting AI-generated alerts and subjective patient symptoms.
- Assign students to:
  - Analyze AI recommendations, determining if they align with best practices.
  - Identify potential AI biases (e.g., based on incomplete data, patient demographics).
  - Justify their final clinical decision, integrating AI suggestions with nursing assessment findings.
- Evaluation: Students submit a reflective analysis discussing when to trust AI-generated insights and when human judgment must override recommendations.

## Research/News Corner



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

This month, I share the following:

[AI Won't Plateau — if We Give It Time To Think](#) Ted Talk, Noam Brown,

October 2024.

Ramírez-Baraldes, E., García-Gutiérrez, D. and García-Salido, C. (2025), [Artificial Intelligence in Nursing: New Opportunities and Challenges](#). Eur J Educ, 60: e70033. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ejed.70033>

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## Educator's Toolbox



The terminology around AI can be intimidating, confusing, and exhausting. Here is a great link to help with this:

[AI Glossary: Learn 50+ Key Terms to Master AI Jargon](#)

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## 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](mailto:thedigitalstethoscope@gmail.com)*

