



The Digital Stethoscope Newsletter May 2025

"Amplifying innovation, one heartbeat at a time."



"Blooming Possibilities"

As May unfolds and nature reminds us of the power of renewal, it's the perfect time to refresh our own practices as educators and innovators. Just like the season, AI in nursing education is growing rapidly — and so are the opportunities to use it in practical, meaningful ways.

This edition of *The Digital Stethoscope* is about **planting small seeds** — simple tools, fresh strategies, and new ways to bring AI into your work without feeling overwhelmed. Whether you are preparing summer courses, refining clinical experiences, or brainstorming for fall, this month's ideas are designed to be easy to implement and inspiring to watch grow.

Challenge yourself: **Pick just *one* AI idea** from this newsletter to explore in May. You might be surprised how quickly it takes root! 🌱

Let's spring forward, together.

Dr. Susan Deane
Online Education Consultant

Spotlight Feature #1: "*Starting Small with AI: A Med-Surg Makeover*"



A clinical nursing instructor who started small — with just one AI-generated case study in her Med-Surg course. What began as an experiment became a series of AI-supported activities, including reflective journaling prompts, simulated patient reports, and personalized study guides. Her goal? Use AI to enhance—not replace—her existing methods.

This spotlight walks through her step-by-step approach to blending AI into her course without sacrificing authenticity, academic rigor, or personal connection.

Bonus: Includes 3 practical tips for educators new to AI:

- Start with one lesson, not a full course overhaul
- Use AI to generate materials, but refine with your expertise
- Involve students in ethical discussions about AI use

💡 This story reminds us: innovation can grow one small step at a time.

Spotlight Feature 2: "Student Voices: What Future Nurses Think About AI in the Classroom"

This spotlight shifts the focus to students — specifically, their first impressions and reflections after using AI tools in their coursework. From study buddy apps to AI-assisted care planning tools, students shared how AI is helping (or confusing) their learning process.

Key takeaways:

- Most found AI helpful for **summarizing complex topics**
- Some expressed concerns about **accuracy and over-reliance**
- Many appreciated instructors who guided them in the **ethical and responsible AI use**

🗣️ *Why this matters:* Hearing from students can help faculty shape more thoughtful, relevant AI strategies that align with real learning needs.

Trending Topics: What's Blooming in AI and Nursing Education



1. 🧠 AI & the NCLEX: Is Adaptive Assessment About to Evolve?

As next-generation testing becomes the norm, AI-enhanced assessment tools are gaining momentum. Companies are now piloting adaptive simulations and real-time feedback systems powered by AI to help students *think like nurses*. This trend signals a shift from static testing to more dynamic, judgment-based evaluation.

➡️ *Watch this space: AI may soon influence how we teach, test, and remediate nursing students.*

2. 🧠 From Chatbots to Clinical Coaching: AI's Expanding Role in Student Support

AI tutors are no longer limited to general education — several pilot programs are now embedding nursing-specific AI chatbots to support clinical reasoning, medication safety, and care planning. These tools offer just-in-time learning and low-stakes engagement for students who might not ask in class.

➡ *Could your program benefit from a 24/7 AI coach for students?*

3. 📄 Documenting the Invisible: How AI is Elevating Nursing Practice

At institutions like the Mayo Clinic, AI is being used to capture the invisible work of nursing — those critical thinking moments, emotional labor, and real-time decisions that go undocumented. As AI documentation tools improve, expect to see more visibility (and maybe even reimbursement) for the full scope of nursing care.

➡ *Implication for educators: We must prepare students to both use and be seen through AI-enhanced documentation.*

Practical Insights: Quick Wins: 3 AI Tools You Can Use Before Summer

Looking to add a little AI-powered magic before the summer break? Here are **three quick-start tools** that can make a big difference for busy nurse educators:



- **Perplexity.ai**

What it is: A clinical Q&A chatbot that gives direct, sourced answers in seconds.

Use it for: Generating discussion questions, quick evidence searches, or clinical judgment examples.

Quick Win: Save time prepping case studies!

- **Gamma App**

What it is: An AI tool that builds beautiful visual presentations from short text prompts.

Use it for: Creating lecture slides, patient education materials, or clinical conference posters.

Quick Win: Design faster, present smarter.

- **Fireflies.ai**

What it is: An AI-powered meeting assistant that records, transcribes, and summarizes conversations.

Use it for: Student project feedback sessions or clinical post-conferences.

Quick Win: Focus on teaching, not typing.

📅 May Mini-Challenge:

Try just *one* of these tools in your work this month.

Post your experience with #TheDigitalStethoscopeChallenge and inspire others to bloom with you!

Research/News Corner



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

AAN Advocates for Ethical AI Integration in Nursing

The American Academy of Nursing (AAN) has recently taken significant steps to address the ethical integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare. Recognizing the profound impact AI can have on patient care, the AAN emphasizes the importance of incorporating ethical considerations into AI development and deployment.

In a recent communication to the National Science Foundation, the AAN highlighted the necessity of addressing ethical issues related to AI use, focusing on its effects on patients, healthcare providers, and system burdens. The Academy advocates for a comprehensive approach that includes attention to ethical concerns in all aspects of AI application in healthcare settings.

For nurse educators, this underscores the importance of integrating discussions about AI ethics into curricula, preparing future nurses to navigate and contribute to the evolving landscape of healthcare technology responsibly.

Here is the link to the website: [AAN Advocates for Ethical AI Integration in Nursing](#)

Educator's Toolbox: *AI Resources You Can Use Today*



◆ 1. Download: 10 AI Prompts to Jumpstart Clinical Judgment Activities

Description:

Need to spark better thinking in class or clinical? This downloadable prompt sheet offers AI-ready ideas to generate SBAR reports, unfolding case scenarios, and critical thinking questions. Perfect for simulation days, post-conference debriefs, or homework.

Sample Prompt (from PDF):

“Create an unfolding case scenario involving a patient admitted with diabetic ketoacidosis. Include at least three turning points that require the nurse to reassess priorities.”

◆ 2. Try This Tool: AI Rubric Builder

Description:

Say goodbye to endless hours tweaking rubrics! Use ChatGPT or tools like [Easy-Peasy.AI](#) to generate criteria for clinical papers, discussion boards, or concept maps. Provide your assignment description and ask:

“Create a 4-level grading rubric for a nursing care plan assignment focused on CHF management.”

💡 *Pro Tip:* Always revise AI-generated rubrics with your own language and outcomes for alignment.

◆ 3. Faculty Activity: Build Your Summer AI Toolkit

Description:

Encourage faculty to curate their own “AI Toolkit” by identifying 3 tools or prompt types they want to test over the summer. Provide a downloadable worksheet to guide reflection:

Sections include:

- Tool or App to Explore (e.g., Perplexity, Gamma App)
- Teaching Challenge It Might Solve
- First Task to Try
- Reflection: How could this support student learning?

👉 [Click here to download The Digital Stethoscope – May Toolbox Pack \(PDF\)](#)

Bonus Idea:

Spring into Action with Our May Mini-Prompt Calendar!

Looking for a fun, easy way to explore how AI can refresh your teaching? I've created a "May Mini-Prompt Calendar" just for you! Each day offers a simple, 5-10 minute AI-powered task you can try. These small steps are designed to inspire fresh ideas for your classroom, clinical experiences, or professional growth. Download your printable calendar below and watch how tiny daily actions can lead to big blooms by summer!

[The Digital Stethoscope – May Mini-Prompt Calendar](#)

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

