



The Medicine-Technology Interface: Key to Global Health?

Presented at the 14th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference
National University of Singapore
Singapore

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APMEC 2017

Some of the barriers to global health*

- Economics
- Education of the health workforce
- Health disparities
- Health workforce shortages
- Inadequate research
- Lack of “learning health systems”
- Politics
- Socio-cultural issues

*In alphabetical order

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How technology can lower some of these barriers

- Economics → Make health services cheaper
- Education of the health workforce → Foster global standards
- Health disparities → Use “smart tech” for care/education
- Health workforce shortages → Virtual providers and empowered pts
- Inadequate research → Real-time patient-centered
- Lack of “learning health systems” → Dynamic data clouds
- Politics → ????????????
- Socio-cultural issues → ????????????

Technology and global health

- Foster a “one-world” approach to healthcare
 - Create a global culture of health
 - Empower patients
 - Make health knowledge and tools available and affordable
 - Make virtual health providers abundant
 - Create learning health systems linking patients, medical literature, research and clinical trials in real time

This is more than a “pipe-dream”

But medical education needs to catch up!

- Medical and health professions education need a reboot
- It is past time to challenge its *untested assumptions!*
- Accept the reality that knowledge is becoming *increasingly external*
- Shift from the standard linear continuum to a *multidimensional system*
 - Communications, management and systems- and team-based
 - Working with and managing artificially intelligent machines
 - Mathematical expertise: understanding probabilities resulting from big data
 - Communications skills needed to work with empowered and knowledgeable patients in all their uniquely human complexities
- Emphasize and model *compassion* in all phases of the curriculum

Perhaps this is a “pipe-dream?”

Thank you!



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