The Medicine-Technology Interface: Key to Global Health?

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Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD, MACP
President/CEO
Association of Academic Health Centers

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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 ➔ ???????????

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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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