

AI News Digest

02/23/2026 - 03/01/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: CLINICAL & HEALTH PRACTICE

AI's Dual Role: Advancements and Ethical Challenges

This week, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare has sparked significant discussions around its benefits and ethical implications. While advancements such as the PanMETAI platform for pancreatic cancer detection and improved prostate cancer care models demonstrate AI's potential in diagnostics and treatment, concerns persist regarding the reinforcement of systemic inequities in patient safety. Experts emphasize the need for responsible governance and prioritization of safety in AI applications. As investments in AI continue to grow, the healthcare sector must navigate both innovation and ethical considerations.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ AI adoption in healthcare has increased to 70% in 2024.
- ✓ PanMETAI aims for early detection of pancreatic cancer through liquid biopsy.
- ✓ Third Way Health raised \$15 million to scale its AI workflow platform.

IMPLICATIONS

- Healthcare leaders must prioritize ethical AI governance to prevent systemic inequities.
- Increased AI adoption could lead to significant improvements in patient outcomes and operational efficiency.
- Investment in AI infrastructure, like LillyPod, may accelerate drug discovery and genomic research.

Key Metrics: 70% of healthcare organizations are using AI, up from 63%.; \$15 million raised by Third Way Health in Series A funding.; LillyPod powered by over 1,000 NVIDIA GPUs.

1. Automating inequity: how artificial intelligence reproduces systemic failures in patient safety for marginalized communities

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Healthcare AI, Data Absenteeism, Bias in AI Models, Digital Colonialism

Impact Score: 27.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article critiques the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare, highlighting its tendency to reinforce existing power hierarchies and exacerbate vulnerabilities among marginalized populations. It argues that AI systems often emerge from profit-driven institutional contexts, leading to the encoding of social inequities and the potential for digital colonialism, particularly in Global South settings. The authors emphasize that health-related datasets are frequently incomplete and biased, resulting in underrepresentation of marginalized communities, which in turn affects the efficacy of AI models in clinical settings. This "data absenteeism" is framed as a form of epistemic violence, as it not only neglects but actively exploits these populations, undermining their health outcomes and perpetuating systemic inequalities.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02930-0>

2. National Taiwan University Hospital develops AI for pancreatic cancer metabolic profiling

Category: Research

Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Computer Science

Topics: Healthcare AI, Metabolomics Screening, Liquid Biopsy Analysis, Early Cancer Detection

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Researchers from Academia Sinica and National Taiwan University Hospital have developed PanMETAI, an AI-integrated metabolomics screening platform aimed at early detection of pancreatic cancer. This diagnostic model utilizes a standardized liquid biopsy to extract and analyze approximately 260,000 metabolic signals from 500 microliters of blood serum, achieving high accuracy with area under the curve values of 99% for non-cancer and 93% for pancreatic cancer in validation studies. The model's approach, which captures global metabolic changes, enhances early risk identification and demonstrates reproducibility across diverse datasets. The development reflects over twenty years of clinical expertise and aims to improve early diagnosis not only for pancreatic cancer but potentially for other cancer types as well.

<https://www.mobihealthnews.com/news/asia/national-taiwan-university-hospital-develops-ai-pancreatic-cancer-metabolic-profiling>

3. SDSC Powers AI Model to Improve Prostate Cancer Care

Category: Research

Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Computer Science

Topics: Healthcare AI, Radiation Therapy Optimization, Prostate Cancer Treatment, AI Model for Urinary Tract

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Researchers from six medical centers and academic institutions, including the University of California San Diego, have developed a new artificial intelligence model focused on the male urinary tract. This model aims to enhance the precision of radiation therapy for prostate cancer, potentially reducing side effects such as urinary complications. The collaboration highlights the integration of AI in improving cancer treatment outcomes.

<https://www.hpcwire.com/off-the-wire/sdsc-powers-ai-model-to-improve-prostate-cancer-care/>

4. To succeed with AI, leaders must prioritize safety when driving transformation

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Healthcare AI, Patient-Centered Governance, Digital Infrastructure for AI, AI in Clinical Decision-Making

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Dr. Paul A. Testa, Chief Health Informatics Officer at NYU Langone Health, emphasizes the necessity of institutional commitment and governance for the responsible integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare. He argues that the focus should shift from whether AI will transform healthcare to how to effectively manage that transformation, highlighting the importance of a unified digital infrastructure and accountability to prevent exacerbating existing disparities. Testa advocates for AI as a tool to enhance patient care by improving the speed and quality of clinical decisions, while also stressing the need for patient-centered governance and clinician engagement in the development of AI systems. He concludes that organizations committed to a cohesive digital foundation will be better positioned to implement AI responsibly and sustainably.

<https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/succeed-ai-leaders-must-prioritize-safety-when-driving-transformation>

5. Q&A:: Former U.S. chief technology officer Aneesh Chopra on AI in healthcare

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Public Health Sciences, Nursing, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Healthcare AI, Drug Discovery, Value-Based Care, Policy Collaboration

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Aneesh Chopra, the first CTO of the U.S., emphasizes the potential of AI to enhance productivity in healthcare, particularly in drug discovery and value-based care. He argues that despite significant investments in digitization, healthcare productivity has declined, suggesting that AI could be the key to unlocking promised efficiencies. Chopra critiques the current fee-for-service model, which he believes incentivizes inefficiencies, and advocates for a shift towards value-based care that rewards effective clinical interventions. He highlights the necessity of policy changes and collaboration between public and private sectors to realize AI's full potential in healthcare.

<https://www.mobihealthnews.com/news/ga-former-us-chief-technology-officer-aneesh-chopra-ai-healthcare>

6. Lilly Launches LillyPod NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD for Genomics and Drug Discovery AI

Category: Research

Departments: Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nursing, Biological Sciences, Computer Science

Topics: Healthcare AI, Genomics, Drug Discovery AI, AI Infrastructure

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

Lilly has launched LillyPod, an AI factory powered by over 1,000 NVIDIA Blackwell Ultra GPUs, aimed at enhancing scientific research and accelerating advancements in medicine. This facility is notable for being the most powerful AI infrastructure fully owned and operated by a pharmaceutical company. The initiative is designed to improve the speed and accuracy of medical advancements, particularly in genomics and drug discovery.

<https://www.hpcwire.com/off-the-wire/lilly-launches-lillypod-nvidia-dgx-superpod-for-genomics-and-drug-discovery-ai/>

7. Resource: MultiClinAI: Multilingual Clinical Entity Annotation Projection and Extraction

Category: Research
Departments: Computer Science, Public Health Sciences, Nursing
Topics: Natural Language Processing, Multilingual Clinical Annotation, Clinical Concept Extraction, Annotation Projection

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 4
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 5	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

The MultiClinAI Track, organized by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center's NLP for Biomedical Information Analysis group, aims to develop comparable multilingual corpora through annotation projection and facilitate the multilingual extraction of clinical concepts. This initiative is supported by European projects including DataTools4Heart and AI4HF. The task emphasizes the importance of multilingual resources in biomedical information analysis.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/02/multiclinai-multilingual-clinical-entity-annotation-projection-and-extraction/>

8. From Radiology to Drug Discovery, Survey Reveals AI Is Delivering Clear Return on Investment in Healthcare

Category: Business
Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Computer Science
Topics: Healthcare AI, Generative AI, Large Language Models, Medical Imaging ROI, Drug Discovery Applications

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 5	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

NVIDIA's "State of AI in Healthcare and Life Sciences" survey indicates a significant increase in AI adoption across the healthcare sector, with 70% of organizations actively using AI, up from 63% in 2024. Key findings reveal that 69% of respondents are utilizing generative AI and large language models, while 82% consider open-source software crucial to their AI strategies. The report highlights that AI is driving revenue growth and cost reduction, with notable ROI in medical imaging and drug discovery, where 57% and 46% of respondents, respectively, reported positive outcomes. The survey emphasizes the importance of integrating AI into existing workflows to maximize its impact on clinical and operational challenges.

<https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/ai-in-healthcare-survey-2026/>

9. Massive US study finds higher cancer death rates near nuclear power plants

Category: Research

Departments: Public Health Sciences, Nursing, Biological Sciences, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Healthcare AI, Cancer Risk Assessment, Environmental Health Impact, Epidemiological Modeling

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

A nationwide study by researchers at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health has found that U.S. counties closer to operating nuclear power plants (NPPs) exhibit higher cancer death rates compared to those farther away. This study, the first of its kind in the 21st century to analyze data across all U.S. counties, estimates that approximately 115,000 cancer deaths from 2000 to 2018, or about 6,400 annually, are associated with proximity to NPPs, particularly affecting older adults. While the findings suggest a measurable cancer risk linked to living near NPPs, the authors caution that the study does not establish causation and recommend further research to explore the health impacts of nuclear power. Limitations include the lack of direct radiation measurements and the assumption that all NPPs have the same potential health effects.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/02/260224015537.htm>

10. Third Way Health raises \$15M to scale AI workflow platform

Category: Business

Departments: Public Health Sciences, Computer Science, Nursing

Topics: Healthcare AI, AI-Powered Workflow Integration, Operational Efficiency in Healthcare, Hybrid Human-AI Systems

Impact Score: 17.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

Third Way Health has successfully closed a \$15 million Series A funding round, bringing its total funding to \$22.5 million, with the investment led by Health Velocity Capital. The company specializes in a hybrid human and AI-powered operating platform, Ascend, which includes tools for scheduling and billing, and aims to enhance healthcare workflows. The new funds will be allocated to scaling operations, advancing technology, and expanding the workforce, particularly in sales and implementation teams. Third Way Health emphasizes the importance of integrating AI with robust data systems to improve healthcare practices and address operational challenges.

<https://www.mobihealthnews.com/news/third-way-health-raises-15m-scale-ai-workflow-platform>