Columbia Business School

Transforming AI in Healthcare

AI+Healthcare is Columbia Business School's bold bet on the future of medicine. As the first series within the School's AI in Business Initiative, it is designed to set the agenda for how AI is deployed, governed, and scaled across healthcare—shaping not just new tools, but the business models and systems that determine how those tools can actually improve lives. Building on CBS's renowned Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Management strength, AI+Healthcare turns the School into a living lab for the next era of care, where faculty research, student ventures, and alumni leaders come together to tackle high-stakes challenges: reimagining diagnosis and care delivery, reinventing hospital operations, powering new forms of clinical decision support and digital twins, and redefining how we protect and promote mental health and workforce wellbeing in an AI-driven world.

Upcoming Events & Programming
As part of AI+Healthcare, Columbia Business School will host a series of high-profile events that explore the new era of medicine. Select events include:

- **AI in Healthcare: Past, Present, and Next (February 12):** Featured panelists Dr. Laurent Ganem '86, Founder and CEO, G Square Healthcare Private Equity LLP; Dr. Junaid Bajwa, Operating Partner, G Square Healthcare Private Equity LLP; Dr. Lewis Potter, NHS Clinical Entrepreneur and Founder and CEO, Geeky Medics; and Dr. Tim Crimmins, Chief Medical Information Officer, Columbia University Irving Medical Center will explore the future of AI investments in healthcare, enhanced training for clinicians using AI tools, and the deployment and potential of AI within the healthcare industry including ethical and practical considerations shaping innovation.

- **Healthcare Spotlight Series: Expanding Access to Care Through Technology and AI (February 26):** This panel will explore how AI-enabled tools are unlocking new care delivery models, extending clinical capacity, and enabling care to move beyond traditional settings. Drawing on perspectives from health systems, technology platforms, and industry leadership, the discussion will focus on how AI is being applied across the care continuum — from digital triage and decision support to virtual and asynchronous care models and operational automation — and what it takes to deploy these technologies at scale to sustainably improve access to care. Featured speakers include Lee H. Schwamm, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Digital Health Officer, Yale New Haven Health System; Pete Clardy, MD, Director, Clinical Enterprise, Google for Health; Ana Chadwick, Senior Advisor and former CFO, Insulet; and Jing Dong, the DeRosa Family Associate Professor of Business at Columbia Business School will moderate the panel.

- **4th Annual Columbia Business School Digital Health Conference (March 27):** This half-day summit will convene leading experts, industry executives, innovators, and policymakers from the healthcare and technology sectors to examine the rapidly evolving digital health landscape. Through keynote addresses, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, participants will explore advances in telemedicine, artificial intelligence in healthcare, health informatics, wearable technologies, electronic health records, and data privacy and security.

- **The Future of Healthcare Delivery (April 13):** Dean Costis Magalaras moderates a fireside chat with Allon Bloch ’97, Co-Founder & CEO K Health and Niyum Gandhi, CFO and Treasurer, Mass General Brigham.

- **AI Startup Challenge 2026 (April 24):** A competition that challenges current graduate degree students to harness the transformative power of AI to create innovative solutions to real-world business challenges across climate, finance, healthcare, and consumer markets.

Research and Faculty Highlights
Columbia Business School faculty are leading applied research that can guide health systems, technology companies, and policymakers. Select research includes:

- **Improving hospital flow and capacity with AI:** Research by Jing Dong, DeRosa Family Associate Professor of Business, shows how AI- and data-driven modeling can improve patient flow in hospitals and emergency departments, reducing bottlenecks, wait times, and operational strain.

- **Designing AI that supports clinical judgment:** Work by Xuelin Li, Assistant Professor of Business, examines how AI-driven clinical decision support systems can be integrated into care delivery so they assist clinicians during real-time decisions at the bedside and in the exam room, surfacing risk scores, treatment options, and alerts, without undermining professional judgment or trust.

- **Using prediction to prevent harm:** Research by Hannah Li and Tianyi Peng, Assistant Professors of Business, explores AI-powered early warning systems and digital twins that help clinicians see problems before they happen. By creating a virtual copy of a patient and running simulations on different scenarios and treatments, their work shows how AI can flag risks, like falls, complications, or clinical deterioration, so providers can prepare, intervene earlier, and choose safer, more effective care pathways.

- **Redesigning healthcare with data and AI:** Studies led by Carri Chan, Faculty Director, Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Management Program, show how data and AI can be used to redesign entire systems of care. From how patients move through hospitals to how resources are allocated across units and service lines, the data can help with learning how the health systems can deliver faster, safer, and more reliable care at scale.

- **Understanding AI's impact on youth mental health:** Research by Dante Donati, Assistant Professor of Business, provides evidence on how digital infrastructure and technology exposure affect youth mental health, informing how AI tools should be introduced to young and vulnerable populations.

- **Inferring mental health from digital behavior**: Work by Sandra Matz, Lulu Chow Wang Professor of Business, shows how digital footprints can be used to infer psychological traits and mental health states, while highlighting critical ethical, privacy, and governance considerations for responsible AI use.

- **Managing workforce wellbeing during AI adoption:** Research by Stephan Meier, James P. Gorman Professor of Business, reveals an "enthusiasm gap" between leaders and employees on AI adoption and offers guidance on how organizations can implement AI in ways that support mental health and wellbeing.

Alumni

AI+Healthcare is powered by a super-active student healthcare community and a growing network of alumni leading AI-driven innovation in the sector. Highlighted below is a select group of alumni founders and leaders in healthcare.

- Laurence Coman '20, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Avo, a clinician support and AI-powered clinical decision-making platform that helps health systems standardize care, reduce clinician burnout, and integrate evidence-based guidance into point-of-care workflows.

- Nick Ganju '08, Founder & Chief AI Officer of ZocDoc, a digital healthcare marketplace that helps patients find and book in-network doctors and medical appointments.

- Kedar Ganta '16 is Chief Product and Engineering Officer at Caregility, a comprehensive AI-driven platform that combines Computer Vision, Audio AI, and Sensor Intelligence to enhance patient safety and healthcare quality.

- Michael Kopko '09, Co-Founder and CEO of Pearl Health, a company enabling primary care practices to thrive in value-based care through advanced technology, data insights, and practice support.

- Lorraine Marchand ’06, Founder of Roxi AI, an AI-powered platform predicting the likelihood of success for drugs in development by synthesizing data from clinical trials, regulatory filings, scientific literature, and real-world news.

- Ariana Myers ’02, Co-Founder and COO of Mindr, an AI-driven digital health platform that helps caregivers and adults at risk for dementia maintain cognitive health through personalized, evidence-based lifestyle programs.

- Blake Richards ’17 is COO of Elucid, a venture-backed, Boston-based medical device company applying A.I. to non-invasive medical imaging to precisely diagnose cardiovascular disease and inform personalized treatment selection.

- Gokce (Gilly) Yildirim ’19, Founder, Vent Creativity is a leading voice on AI- and digital twin–assisted surgery, with a focus on patient safety and regulatory readiness in high-stakes clinical settings.