2024 Signature Series

REPORT:

AI IN HEALTH NAVIGATING NEW FRONTIERS

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II. NAVIGATING THE AI LANDSCAPE IN HEALTH CARE

Artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to revolutionize health care, offering unprecedented opportunities to enhance patient care and drive operational efficiencies. By harnessing the power of machine learning algorithms and advanced data analytics, AI systems can assist medical professionals in making more accurate diagnoses, personalizing treatment plans, and accelerating the development of life-saving drugs and therapies. Moreover, AI-powered tools can streamline administrative tasks, optimize resource allocation, and improve overall health care delivery, ultimately contributing to better patient outcomes and reduced health care costs.

Al-driven predictive models can also identify potential disease outbreaks, enabling proactive public health interventions and mitigating the spread of illnesses. Additionally, Al-based virtual assistants and chatbots can provide reliable medical information, enhance patient engagement, and improve access to health care services, particularly in underserved or remote areas.

At the same time, the rapid advancement of AI technology presents unique challenges for policymakers. Developing appropriate regulations for emerging technologies is often difficult, as policymaking is typically incremental and legislative processes tend to be deliberative and slow. AI development, however, progresses at an exponential rate, outpacing even other recent technological advances in the speed of its development.

To ensure the responsible development and application of innovative technologies, policymakers and regulators must first gain a thorough understanding of how these cutting-edge systems work. This is particularly challenging with AI due to its rapid development, coupled with the self-sufficient and often opaque nature of generative AI technologies. The breakneck speed at which AI evolves makes it difficult to keep up, while the complexity and autonomy of AI systems create additional barriers to comprehension and oversight.

"Harnessing the power of AI to transform health care would require grassroots efforts and the highest level of maturity, alignment, transparency, and accountability to break down silos, work collaboratively and create solutions that improve patient experience and produce better outcomes."

- Shaheen Gauher, Ph.D.



About the Alliance for Health Policy and its Signature Series

The Alliance for Health Policy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping policymakers and the public better understand health policy, the roots of the nation's health care issues, and the trade-offs posed by various proposals for change.

Every year, the Alliance holds a Signature Series that gathers voices from across the health care policy community to focus on a single issue throughout the year. Recognizing that innovation in AI for health care applications is rapidly outpacing policy considerations, the Alliance chose this topic for its 2024 Signature Series and convened a diverse array of stakeholders spanning the health care ecosystem.

By bringing together voices from across the policy community—those currently serving in government roles, health care providers, payors, patient advocates, innovators, and technology experts—the Alliance created an opportunity for a thoughtful discussion through a policy lens to develop nuanced insights. This fostered an environment of active listening and collaboration, a necessary foundation for addressing the complexities of this issue. Foundational conversations such as these provide the opportunity to share differing perspectives in a noncompetitive environment. With Al's growing influence, such multi stakeholder dialogue is critical for policy education and establishing frameworks to help guide more efficient, personalized, and equitable care delivery.

Series Overview

Insight development by listening to our community

April 25 Thought Leader Workshop

The Alliance brought together more than 50 health policy and Al experts and stakeholders, representing a diverse range of perspectives, for an all-day discussion about critical issues surrounding Al development and implementation in health care. The dialogue was guided by an expert external facilitator, Collective Next.

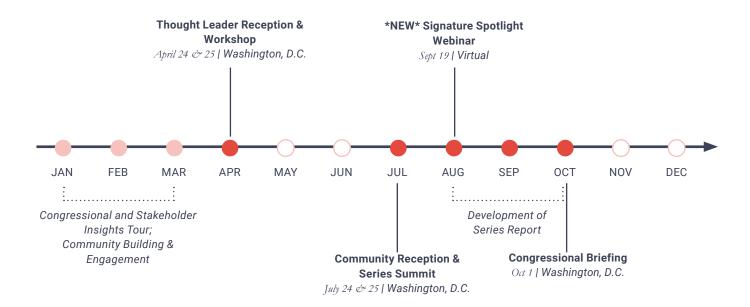
July 25 Summit

August 28 Spotlight Webinar

October 1/2 Congressional Briefing

As always, the structure of this annual series began with a

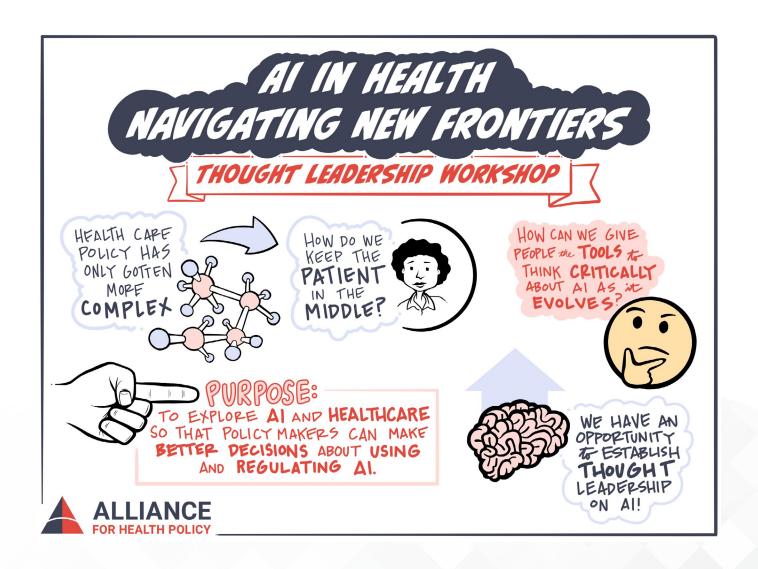
Listening Tour designed to gain valuable insights from the Alliance community to hone in on the Al theme for the year. The Thought Leader Reception and Workshop brought together experts and stakeholders, representing a diverse range of perspectives, for an all-day discussion. The series continued with the Welcome Reception and Signature Series Summit to present a day of panels to the public. As a new feature this year, we hosted a Spotlight Webinar to focus on a particular subset of Al policy. Finally, the series concluded with a Congressional Briefing and the release of the Signature Series Report.



Workshop Outcomes

The Alliance for Health Policy brought together more than 50 health policymakers, AI experts, and health care stakeholders, representing a range of perspectives, to delve into critical issues surrounding AI development and implementation in health care and to help equip policymakers with the insights necessary to make well-informed policy decisions. The structured discussions and exchanges of perspectives spanned an entire day, with the professional facilitation of **Collective Next**, a design and

consultancy group, guiding the dialogue. Collective Next applied best-in-class human-centered design principles and learning styles into each session, with the aim of ensuring that those coming from various points of view had some language in common, that every perspective was heard, and that the outcome would equip policymakers with practical and effective tools to think critically about ever-evolving Al in health care.



Given the participants' diverse backgrounds and experiences, the discussions began by level-setting and defining key operating terms to establish a common understanding. Then, groups were formed to discuss the key topics of Privacy, Data Integrity, and Standards and Measurement. While aligned on the core themes, each breakout group's structure and depth of exploration were shaped by the expertise of its leader and the extent of participation from attendees. Finally, breakout groups took on those same key topics, as would an AI health care advisory board or the congressional curriculum on AI in Health.

The breakout brainstorming sessions provided a forum for participants to lend their insights and ideas toward addressing these three topics, which were selected by the Alliance for Health Policy based on input from the health care and Al communities. It is important to note that these three themes have been relevant in the broader arena of health technology and that the advent of Al, according to one expert interviewed, "supercharges" the

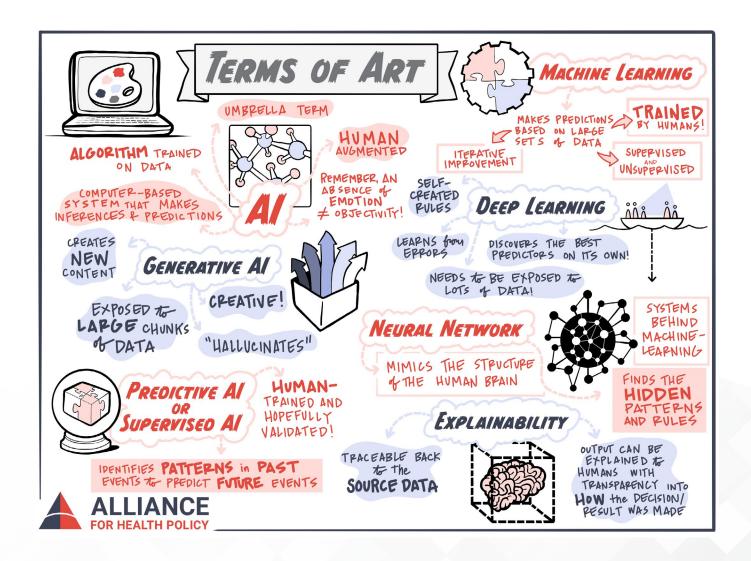
importance of those key topics:

- · The Importance of Common Standards and Measurements
- · Data Privacy
- · Data Appropriateness

In the last part of the day, participants were divided into groups to create recommendations for two relevant AI-related challenges:

- Envisioning an excellent AI health advisory board (private or public)
- · Developing a congressional curriculum on AI in health

The following represents the group discussions, findings, and perspectives shared in the workshop by attendees.



III. STANDARDS AND MEASUREMENT

Alliance for Health policy discussions with AI experts and health care policymakers prior to the Signature Series workshop revealed that the development of standards and measurement was a central focus in the ongoing policy conversations surrounding AI. It was seen as an essential part of assuring the safe, effective, and responsible use of AI in health care, enabling health care providers to leverage the full potential of these technologies while mitigating risks and promoting trust among stakeholders. The group acknowledged that current health technology standards and measurements represented a mix of initiatives defined not only by legislative and regulatory requirements but also by academic and private sector initiatives. Some initiatives that the group noted were efforts inside government agencies, such as the National Institute for Standards and Technology, those led by nonprofit groups

like the National Committee for Quality Assurance, and coalition groups such as those assembled by the Consumer Technology Association, the Coalition for Health AI, and the Health AI Partnership. These organizations are involved in creating and sharing frameworks and best practices for the implementation of safe, equitable, and effective AI.

As with the other two topics, the participants attending the workshop discussed the following four areas: the importance of standards and measurement, challenges, opportunities, and stakeholders, and came up with key takeaways.



Nicol Turner Lee

a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, where she is the director of the Center for Technology Innovation led the discussion on Standards and Measurements.

Importance

The importance of standards and measurements in AI health care applications, the group noted, lies in their potential to ensure consistency in development and deployment, help mitigate bias, enhance equity, and promote "responsible innovation," namely, that which avoids undue risks to users and systems. These standards are crucial for patient safety, building trust with users, those who purchase the services, and regulators, fostering adoption and facilitating interoperability and collaboration. One example of how a standards setting organization operates is the Consumer Technology Association, an independent non profit organization that sets standards for many areas. One type of technology CTA sets standards for outside of health care is the interoperability in audio equipment, which allows for various components from different manufacturers to work together. Moreover, best practices or standards can enable real-time tracking of regulatory performance, ensuring compliance and quality control while supporting research and development efforts.

Challenges

The path to establishing effective standards is not without challenges. There's a notable lack of strategic building blocks to create new standards, including difficulties in defining success and appropriate methods of measurement for such standards. It is difficult to balance predictable policies while anticipating unintended consequences and challenging to keep pace with rapid technological advancements. The lack of harmonization across different organizations and regions, globally and within the United States, further complicates matters. Additionally, there's a risk of putting the person last, as evident in the lack of diverse stakeholder engagement, data gaps for vulnerable populations, and potential biases in standards and models for AI today. The difficulty of enforcing adoption also remains a significant challenge.

Opportunities

Despite these challenges, those attending the workshop noted several opportunities. The field isn't starting from scratch; existing hardware and software standards can be applied to Al and potential federal comprehensive privacy laws offer a chance for alignment across the country. The group also emphasized that there is room for improvement in current approaches. They highlighted the developing standards that identify risk, address known gaps in standards, and create transparent, easy-to-understand resources like "data sheets" or "nutrition labels" for datasets and models.

Stakeholders

The group emphasized that a wide range of stakeholders must be involved in the development of standards and measurements for AI, including health systems, medical societies, payers, patients, think tanks, regulators, equity advocates, researchers, technology providers, third-party auditors, allied health staff, accrediting bodies, standards development organizations, and underrepresented groups.

Takeaways

Key takeaways from the workshop emphasized the need to address and understand several strategic principles. These include defining success for AI standards and measurement, balancing economic incentives with public trust and the public good, encouraging adoption through interoperability and collaboration, keeping up with the changing landscape, providing clear jurisdictional authority as the technology becomes more prevalent, and promoting best practices for AI version control and traceability.

Importantly, AI standards present an opportunity to build on existing frameworks, while also addressing known shortcomings of current approaches. They offer a chance to prioritize the individual, incorporating holistic, unbiased, representative, and transparent practices with adequate privacy protections. Furthermore, these standards and measurements could encourage better practices, such as leveraging AI to improve access to health care services, especially in underserved or remote areas.



IV. DATA PRIVACY

In interviews with experts in the field, the Alliance team identified that maintaining data privacy is a vital part of the conversation on health policy and that promoting the responsible and ethical use of Al in health care will require a robust approach to data privacy

protection. Balancing privacy protection with realizing the benefits of digital innovations is vital for maintaining patient trust in health care systems and with providers.

In line with the approach to standards and data appropriateness, the discussion was structured around four key areas: the significance of data privacy, the challenges, the potential opportunities, and the relevant stakeholders. From this comprehensive dialogue, the group distilled several key takeaways.



Deven McGraw

a leading expert on data privacy and the lead for Data Stewardship and Data Sharing at Invitae, led the discussion on Data Privacy.

Importance

As Al systems are predicated on large volumes of data to train algorithms and drive insights, protecting the privacy of an individual's health information as it flows through these systems is paramount. Ample privacy protections will avoid non-consensual sharing of an individual's data to minimize the risks of their identifiable data being released. Robust privacy protections will also cultivate greater public trust, smoothing the way for a greater realization of the benefits of Al. This is why current digital health policy conversations focus extensively on how Al could amplify existing challenges about data privacy. The discussion highlighted several complex challenges.

Challenges

The group acknowledged that data privacy is not a new challenge in health care, but participants noted that AI introduces new complexities to that challenge. The speed at which AI can process massive datasets and the potential for widespread harm if data are shared or misused elevates that risk.

Another key issue raised was the applicability of current regulations like HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). Data brokers that aggregate and sell health data may operate outside of HIPAA's purview and this raised concerns about the appropriate use of such data for research, treatment, and commercial purposes without meaningful consent from individuals.

Another major challenge discussed was the risk of reidentification of individuals from health datasets, even after deidentification efforts have been implemented.

Opportunities

The group noted that states are often leading on data privacy regulations, and there are gaps in the current federal rules. This gap provides an opportunity to harmonize federal regulation by building on existing frameworks rather than inventing from scratch, and by drawing from data privacy policies in other industries outside of health care.

Potential other opportunities discussed included leveraging privacy-enhancing technologies like de-identification and federated learning models that keep data localized. The group also discussed bridging regulatory gaps between what HIPAA covers and what it doesn't, such as commercial data use, through expanded consent frameworks and public education.

Takeaways

One key takeaway that emerged from the discussion was that by building on current regulations, technological solutions, education, and policies emerging at the state level and other sectors, stakeholders can work to uphold robust privacy protections as AI capabilities advance.

Participants recognized that policy considerations need to balance data privacy with ensuring sufficient data utility for Al's promising health care applications. These considerations would include developing appropriate consent models that balance broad and granular approaches while ensuring sufficient transparency and options for data usage.

Some in the group cautioned against overcompensating by overburdening privacy laws and instead encouraged targeted solutions. Others acknowledged that doing so may add to the complexity of achieving policy in this arena.

Stakeholders

Participants stressed the importance of diverse participation in this process, emphasizing the need to include a broad spectrum of voices—from regulators and policymakers to health care providers and caregivers, as well as patients, consumers, researchers, Al innovators, and Al developers.

V. DATA APPROPRIATENESS

In the listening phase of the Alliance's Signature Series process, data appropriateness was an often-mentioned theme. As the health care world increasingly adopts Al technologies, ensuring the appropriateness of the data fueling these tools has emerged as a critical challenge. The concept of data appropriateness, which is as old as research itself, encompasses the quality, relevance, and fit-for-purpose nature of the information used to train Al models and drive decision-making. Without robust frameworks to validate data appropriateness, the potential benefits of Al could be undermined by flawed or misapplied data inputs.

Mirroring their discussions on standards and data privacy, the group organized their conversation around four themes: the importance of data appropriateness, existing challenges, emerging opportunities, and key stakeholders. The exploration led to the identification of several crucial insights.



Christina Silcox

Research Director at Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy, led the discussion on Data Appropriateness.

Challenges

A primary concern raised was the significant gaps in health care data quality, completeness, and transparency that exist today. Many datasets lack proper documentation regarding their origins, limitations, and potential biases. Because those datasets have informed AI development already, it erodes trust in AI's outputs. This concern is compounded by the context-specific nature of data appropriateness, i.e., data suitable for one use case could be ill-suited for another. For instance, data appropriate for diagnostic purposes may be inadequate for developing models aimed at achieving operational efficiencies, and vice versa. Using inappropriate data to train models risks generating inaccurate outputs and potentially causing patient harm.

Furthermore, the discussion highlighted challenges around data scarcity and inherent biases, particularly for underserved populations, those with rare diseases, or instances where privacy regulations restrict certain types of data collection. Because of these existing limitations, AI models risk perpetuating or amplifying disparities if the models are not thoughtfully developed and validated against appropriate data. On top of all of this, different health care applications like diagnostics, treatment planning, or operational workflows have varying data requirements.

Opportunities

Despite these challenges, opportunities emerged for enhancing data appropriateness through novel approaches. Developing robust metadata standards could facilitate assessing and describing data fit-for-purpose. Al also presents new avenues for collecting and integrating data in ways that improve quality and remove barriers. Moreover, prioritizing data interoperability can unlock seamless sharing and aggregation of appropriate data across the health care ecosystem.

Perhaps most promisingly, Al's augmented capabilities allow for uncovering hidden patterns that human analysts may overlook, which can inform improved processes, findings, and applications. In addition, automating tedious tasks like human data entry can drive consistency and quality improvement. The group also noted that in some situations where data are scarce, depending on the specific health care context and the intended use of the data, the use of proxy data can be appropriate and can help bridge that gap.

Takeaways

As Al's transformative potential in health care is being unlocked, developing holistic frameworks that balance data quality, transparency, and alignment with intended use cases is paramount.

First, the group emphasized that policymakers and stakeholders need to address some main strategic principles and create a common understanding of such principles.

Second, participants acknowledged the challenges of defining clear thresholds for when data become inappropriate or insufficient for developing AI tools. Because of that, establishing appropriate risk tolerance levels and recourse mechanisms when data fall short remains an unresolved issue in need of standardization. Clear frameworks are needed to match the right data to the intended AI model use case.

Another conclusion that emerged was that AI data appropriateness efforts are an opportunity to build on what exists and address the known shortcomings of current approaches.

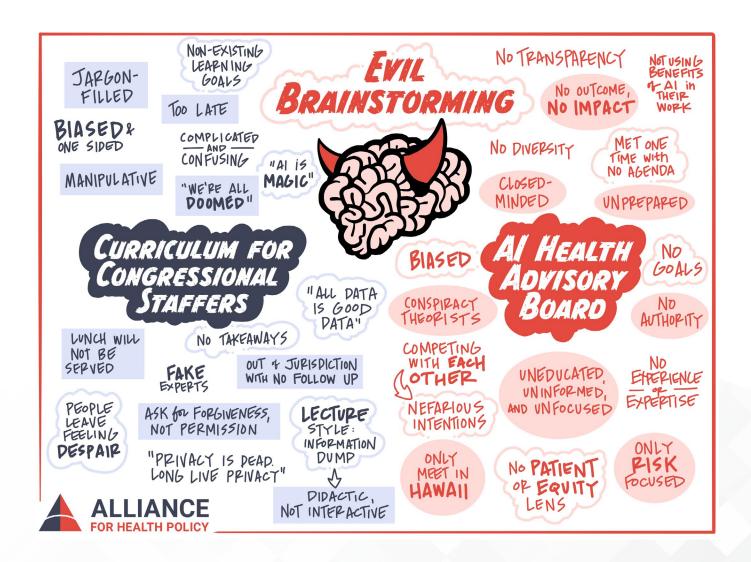
Stakeholders

An ecosystem-wide collaborative effort, spanning health care providers, technology developers, policymakers, academics, and patient advocates, will be needed to establish guidelines and best practices for ensuring the appropriateness of data inputs.

VI. DESIGN METHODOLOGY

As a part of the design exercise, participants first engaged in the "evil brainstorm," an ideation technique used in design thinking and strategic planning workshops. Because it is often easier to articulate a critical point of view than a constructive one, participants were asked to approach a problem from a negative perspective by defining the opposite of an ideal or desirable outcome.

The premise of this evil brainstorm discussion was to encourage the participants to think through all the ways an advisory board or a congressional curriculum could be excellent, by first articulating the opposite—a poorly designed approach. Then, designing an outstanding program is as simple as articulating the opposite. This exercise also unveiled blind spots, unintended consequences, and potential pitfalls to avoid.



VII. ENVISIONING A HEALTH AI ADVISORY BOARD

As health care organizations grapple with the rapid evolution of AI technologies, there is a growing interest in establishing governance methods and expanding organizational knowledge bases on the topic of AI. Advisory boards are one approach to help organizations navigate this complex landscape responsibly. The design workshop aimed to glean insights on structuring effective boards tailored to distinct missions, such as guiding compliant product development, informing policy-making, and facilitating patient advocacy engagement with AI.

Several common threads became apparent in the group's envisioned board compositions and operating models:

- Starting with Purpose: A key insight from one group was the critical importance of establishing a clear framework for any Al advisory board, with a defined set of goals, objectives, roles, and desired outcomes. A thorough understanding of its purpose is foundational for any advisory board and is a critical success factor. Key questions to consider are: Should the board give feedback on specific products or materials? What decisions will they be asked to make? Are they going to deliberate together or be engaged individually? How will the advisory board members know that they are successful and meeting expectations? What distinct value will the Al advisory board offer? Clarity on these points will foster a functional, focused, and engaged group, ensuring that the advisory board's efforts align with its intended purpose and maximize its impact.
- Achieving Balanced Representation: Across all the groups
 that discussed three different versions of an advisory board
 an agreement emerged that ensuring a diverse array of
 stakeholder voices is paramount. This spanned the entire
 health care ecosystem, from patients, providers, and payors
 to technologists, policymakers, regulators, and industry
 representatives. A diverse range of expertise and viewpoints
 among board members was deemed crucial for providing
 comprehensive and well-rounded guidance.
- Prioritizing Diversity and Inclusion: Beyond professional diversity, the participants emphasized demographic diversity

- in terms of gender, race, age, socioeconomic status, and geographic representation. This inclusivity aims to mitigate bias, ensure equitable consideration of all populations impacted by AI, and build public trust.
- Transparency and Public Engagement: For boards interfacing
 with policymakers and patient advocates, an emphasis was
 placed on transparency through public meetings, report
 dissemination, and open comment periods. Proactively
 engaging the public and incorporating feedback were deemed
 vital for the credibility and acceptance of Al guidance.
- Robust Communication Strategy: Clear communication protocols, both internally and externally, were highlighted as critical success factors, including strategically engaging key stakeholder groups like legislators, ensuring consistent leadership messaging, and using educational campaigns to build AI literacy.
- Adaptability and Future-Proofing: With the rapid pace of Al evolution, the groups recognized the need for the advisory boards to be agile. This was reflected in recommendations like ad hoc meeting capability, explicitly future-proofing policies and regulations, and continual reassessment of Al's societal impacts. These policies should extend to a regular reassessment of the composition of board members to ensure alignment with priorities and the landscape.

Other common priorities included patient-centricity, safeguarding data rights and integrity, clinical best-practice alignment, and delineating guardrails without overly restricting innovation. Ethical AI principles formed the bedrock across all three group reports.

By considering stakeholder inclusion, transparent governance models, dynamic communication strategies, and future-focused adaptability, the envisioned advisory boards may offer a blueprint for responsibly democratizing AI guidance across health care's multifaceted ecosystem.

VIII. CONGRESSIONAL CURRICULUM

In conversations that the Alliance team held with congressional staffers and other policymakers, the need for education was widely acknowledged, often coupled with a sense of overwhelm with the range of existing resources. Because the topic is complex, and there are many interested parties, policymakers often don't know where to start or how to vet the sources for educational information. Building a curriculum that represents the thinking of a broad cross-section of stakeholders can enable more informed policymaking, help bridge the knowledge gap between technologists and policymakers, and prepare staffers to anticipate future challenges. This initiative is essential for developing nuanced policies that balance innovation with necessary safeguards in the rapidly advancing landscape of AI in health care and aligns perfectly with the Alliance for Health Policy's mission of informing and educating policymakers on health policy issues.

Three working groups, three approaches to educating Congress

Working Group 1

Working Group 1 focused on defining key concepts, looking at AI from multiple perspectives and clarifying the current legal and regulatory landscape. They also introduced the concept of risk/reward tradeoffs, suggested multiple interactive engagement tools like demos and quizzes, and the need for multiple perspectives to be represented in programming.

Working Group 2

Working Group 2 concentrated on developing a comprehensive understanding of Al in health care, with a focus on practical applications and congressional relevance. The team proposed creating a critical thinking framework for Al, exploring Congress's role in oversight, legislative action, and implementation. They suggested incorporating various resources such as fact sheets, bibliographies, expert lists, and federal documents. To ensure engagement, the team recommended seeking staffer input, reviewing existing materials, and incorporating interactive elements throughout the curriculum.

Working Group 3

Working Group 3 envisioned a curriculum that provides a strong foundation in AI technology basics while enabling a holistic understanding of related policy issues, emphasizing trade-offs and lessons from past initiatives. They focused on the accessibility of resources, drawing from both governmental and non-governmental expert groups, and recommended a multichannel approach that fosters experiential learning.



	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	ТЕАМ 3
Curriculum Chapter Headings	 Key Definitions Perspectives on AI Tools in Health Legal Landscape of AI in Health 	 Understanding AI AI Use Cases Actions Congress Can Take 	 Al 101 Best Practices/Guiding Principles Government Resource Alignment Conflicts and Gray Areas Prospects
Learning Goals	Define AIExplain AI's impact on healthIdentify regulatory gaps	 Educate on AI basics Discuss relevance to Congress Describe action opportunities 	 Understand AI tech basics Gain holistic policy knowledge Comprehend trade-offs Recognize previous policy learnings
Curriculum Priorities	Privacy authority, demystifying AI, risk-reward balance, and differentiating health AI	Developing a critical-thinking framework for AI	Transparency, learnability, curiosity, resource awareness, and accessibility of knowledge
101	Definitions, examples, high-level considerations	Congress's role, Al basics	Al basics, opportunities/risks
201/301	Detailed risks, applications, trade-offs	Oversight, legislative action, implementation, consequences	Complex issues like adoption disparities, funding gaps
Resources	Model cards, regulatory tools, demos, quizzes, and legal citations	Fact sheets, bibliographies, expert and stakeholder lists, federal documents	NIST AI resources, NAM/CHAI resources, expert lists, privacy legislation examples
Curriculum Development & Communication	Multi Stakeholder approach, interactivity, balanced viewpoints, spaced learning sessions	Seek staffer input, review existing materials, make it interactive	Multichannel approach, multimedia use, experiential learning, dynamic materials

IX. SUMMIT ON AI IN HEALTH CARE

The 2024 AI in Health Care Summit

The 2024 AI in Health Care Summit, a cornerstone event in this year's signature series, convened on July 25 in Washington, D.C., bringing together more than 160 attendees and 20 panelists. The audience was made up of a diverse array of health care innovators, government officials, and industry experts.

This one-day intensive program was carefully crafted to take the issues identified in the April workshop and go a level deeper, leveraging the Alliance's approach of featuring expert speakers who have years of experience, representing multiple points of view in the field of Al and health care. The speakers went beyond the theoretical, sharing real-world examples to illustrate policy issues.

The summit timing coincided with the announcement that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is bringing oversight of technology, data, and AI policy under the newly formed Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy to oversee the reinstituted role of Chief Technology Officer, as well as the Chief AI Officer, Office of the Chief Data Officer, and a new Office of Digital Services, which several panelists noted.

The summit built on the themes of "lessons learned," "negating bias," and "tradeoffs/just right policy" identified in the workshop, as well as the insights shared in much of the early-phase interviews and workshop, highlighting the parallel tracks of organizational governance and health care policy. This forward-looking event illuminated the complex interplay between technological advancement, and ethical and practical considerations in the rapidly evolving landscape.

The sessions were:

AI in Health: Board Governance That Complements the Health Policy Perspective

Early listening efforts showed that governance measures inside organizations are moving at the same time that health policy measures are being considered. Byron Scott, who sits on two corporate boards, offered his take on how the two work together.

Byron Scott, M.D., MBA, Chief Operating Officer, Direct Relief

"I would advise policymakers to create policies that foster innovation and development that can benefit patients, while also protecting them and their data ... As you're developing policy, keep in mind that there are other partners [serving on corporate boards] out there trying to protect patients and society."

Byron Scott, M.D., MBA, Chief Operating Officer, Direct Relief

Lessons Learned From Crisis: How COVID-19 Yielded Lessons for AI and Health Policy

The COVID-19 pandemic proved to be a transformative period for health systems, offering critical insights into managing rapid and complex health care challenges. Panelists discussed lessons learned from the pandemic and their application to the ongoing development of AI in health care and health policy.

Moderator

Jennifer Alton, MPP, President, Pathway Policy Group LLC

Panelists

Lee Fleisher, M.D., M.L., Former CMO & Director of CCSQ at CMS, Founding Principal, Rubrum Advising

Hilary Marston, M.D., MPH, Chief Medical Officer, Food & Drug Administration

Laura Holliday, M.S., Assistant Director, Government Accountability Office

"When I look back at the COVID-19 pandemic, I see how AI can be especially useful in a strained environment, when you're strapped for providers, specialist expertise, and time. It's important to think about how AI could be beneficial in a pandemic environment and how it could be useful in other strained environments and low resource settings. There are a lot of tools that could be helpful."

Laura Holliday, M.S., Assistant Director, Government Accountability Office

What is Responsible AI?: Mitigating Bias, Driving Equity, and Maximizing Benefits

Understanding and implementing responsible practices is paramount for using AI as a tool to advance health equity. Panelists discussed strategies to address known shortcomings, including bias in health care AI, considerations for mitigating community harm, and maximizing benefits. Experts also shared insights on creating AI products and policies to improve the health care system for all populations.

Moderator

Anna McCollister, Consultant, Four Lights Consulting / Sequoia Project and Health Information Technology Advisory Committee

Panelists

Arlene Bierman, M.D., M.S., Chief Strategy Officer, Agency for Health Care Research and Quality

Stephanie Enyart, J.D., Chief Public Policy and Research Officer, American Foundation for the Blind

Elliott Green, Co-Founder and CEO, Dandelion Health

Jenny Ma, M.A., J.D., Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

"When we're training AI, we are feeding it datasets. Just as what we eat as humans affects how our body works, when we're feeding AI training models datasets that may not include a lot of disability experience or data about people who have the abnormal or atypical aspect of something, then it's not going to be able to spot and map and look at the full range of experiences of someone like myself who has a very rare condition."

Stephanie Enyart, J.D., Chief Public Policy and Research Officer, American Foundation for the Blind

Leading the Charge: Executive Insights on AI's Impact

This executive insights panel examined current uses and applications of AI, shared innovative ideas and advancements that are driving significant change in health care, and provided valuable considerations for policymakers aiming to support and regulate this rapidly evolving field. This was an enlightening discussion on the transformative potential of AI and the strategies needed to ensure its successful implementation in health care.

Moderator

John Whyte, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, WebMD

Panelists

Ian Blunt, M.Sc., Vice President of Advanced Analytics, Highmark Health

Jesse Ehrenfeld, M.D., MPH, Immediate Past President, American Medical Association

Danielle Lloyd, MPH, Senior Vice President, Private Market Innovations & Quality Initiatives, America's Health Insurance Plans

Vincent Liu, M.D., M.Sc., Chief Data Officer, The Permanente Medical Group, Kaiser Permanente

"We need a national governance framework. We need standards and regulation, but it shouldn't happen in a way that stifles innovation. We've got to have clear standards if we're going to manage issues related to liability, acceptability, training, usability, as well as whether the thing actually works."

Jesse Ehrenfeld, M.D., MPH, Immediate Past President, American Medical Association



The "Goldilocks" Principle: How Do We Get Health AI Regulation "Just Right" to Encourage Innovation and Protect Americans?

At this pivotal moment, we have a unique opportunity to get AI integration in health care "just right." Panelists discussed how policymakers can effectively balance advancing new AI technologies with ensuring safety, privacy, and efficacy in health care. Drawing from historical examples, experts shared valuable lessons from past policy implementations, including the acceleration of telehealth adoption, the evolution of HIPAA on data and patient privacy, and the modernization of electronic health records infrastructure.

Moderator

Damon Davis, MBA, Host, "Discovery Diaries with Damon Davis" podcast

Panelists

Deven McGraw, J.D., MPH, LLM, Chief Regulatory and Privacy Officer, Citizen Health, Inc.

Geeta Nayyar, M.D., MBA, Chief Medical Officer, Technologist, and WSJ Bestselling Author of Dead Wrong

Jeff Smith, MPP, Deputy Director, Certification & Testing Division, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

"When you ask any doctor or a nurse what is the best technology, the answer is invariably – the one that is invisible. Doctors and nurses did not go to medical school or nursing school to become a technologist ... The technology cannot get between the doctor and patient both physically as well as from a relationship standpoint."

Geeta Nayyar, M.D., MBA, Chief Medical Officer, Technologist, and WSJ Bestselling Author of Dead Wrong

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