

Past Event: 2023 NCSBN Annual Meeting -
©2023 National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.

Video Transcript

Event

Past Event: 2023

I want you to envision that you are located at the intersection of the blue line and the y-axis. This is known as the knee of the curve. From now onward, we are looking at going supersonic, then ballistic, the evolution we have seen with regards AI and all the buzz around ChatGPT, DALL-E 2, Stable Diffusion, and Legal Robot compared to what we will see in the next 12 months, and just imagine what we'll see in the next decades ahead.

But no need to panic. We don't need to be a deer in the headlights, frozen in a moment of time. We should remember what Elon Musk told us. We are all paid in direct proportion to the difficulty of the problems that we can solve. Well, I will argue that we can all solve far more complex problems if we use and harness the power of artificial intelligence.

So let's put AI into context. High-income countries are trending to have fewer children. The population support ratio of the entire world is going to drop by 50% by the time we get to 2050. There will be more people in retirement than there are in employment. This will present a major challenge in terms of how and who delivers services.

And let me give you a small example of what I mean by that. We're all familiar with the Nursys system that has enabled us to have a nurse license compact that is leading to a compact nation, a nation that supports safe care delivery with ever-increasing complexity, care is delivered in alternate environments,

don't let them loose on their own. You've got to quality assure them, and you've got to continue to learn and actually adjust them as they learn from the people that they're interacting with.

So I would say a picture is worth 1,000 words. By using the correct format, buckets of data can be turned into eye-catching information where even the most boring of raw data can jump off the page, come to life, and tell a captivating story. This makes our points more accessible, persuasive, and impactful, therefore, a compelling action if we are to look beyond the mundane use of technology.

AI is there to help us as part of a solution set. It can free time to enable us to press the boundaries of what it can do, do faster, do more accurately, and free up our time to think about the next big challenge. But just as Clint Eastwood said in "Dirty Harry," "A person has got to understand their limitations."

Well, to use AI effectively, we also, as regulators, need to understand that AI has limitations. These will change undoubtedly very rapidly, but for now, at least, we must be the ethical guardians of the present to make informed and moral judgments for the future.

By doing this, we can mitigate the risk of bias and champion responsibility for the use of AI in a way that will deliver for all of us. So I've taken you on a small part of the journey towards 2050. But before I finish, I want to recognize some of the people that have made the journey possible, enjoyable, and stimulating.

The chief officers and all of their staff are the engine behind the changes we have delivered for you. I want to thank them all for their effort, dedication, brilliant ideas, and their passion for public protection. To the presidents and to the board members that I have served with, I thank you for the opportunity to have given me the time of my life working with you in true partnership.

It has delivered success. We have faced challenges, and we've taken risks. And we need to move the agenda forward, as we have done over the last several years. This is the future. And behind me has always been my wife and my children. They are a support to me pursuing my dreams, and they make me so proud of the life that we have shared and the road that we have traveled.

But before I conclude, let me just share one final personal reflection. So I was a lazy student, and as I transitioned to high school, I met with the then primary school headmaster, Mr. Fife. I remember him very clearly. And he had some words of wisdom to share with me and my mother. And what he turned around and said was, of course, me being in the room, he turns to my mother and says, "You know, David can do it when he likes. Unfortunately, he very seldom likes."

Now, I went off to secondary school, and I took an interest in organic chemistry. And as a result, I started to very much like. And as they say, the rest is history. So, with no further ado, I'd like to thank that, in the history of this distinguished and impactful organization, I made a small contribution.

As I look to the future, know that you have issues to debate, choices to make, and because of your collective actions, a future to be created. But in all of this, remember the words of Reinhold Niebuhr, who offered the following words of wisdom, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things that I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Well, it is my hope that NCSBN continues to innovate through collaboration with regulators and partners from around the world, creating a vision that is at the very forefront of public protection, both

legislative change that can be leveraged to accelerate contemporary models of proportionate regulation that keep all of us safe.

So let's not look back with desires for the experiences of the past but as a means of informing wiser decisions for the future. Information and evidence are critical in shaping public safety. Technology can help us curate that evidence, but we need to encourage and we need to engage and be the ultimate decision-makers, at least until we have confidence in the soundness of the judgments of the AI systems and their deep learning tools.

Let me just draw this to a conclusion by saying just a few final words. Finally, for me, a legacy is not something that we leave behind but the potential that we have created for the future.

So, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and friends, I hope that you go on, turn my dreams to reality, and continue to protect all of us as we move towards 2050. Thank you.