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WHEN WILL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TAKE OVER?

Today, Professor H Peter Soyer will present on artificial intelligence as part of the 'Dermatology and the Future' session at the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) on the Gold Coast.

In 2017, an artificially intelligent diagnosis algorithm for skin cancer was developed by Stanford University. The researchers found that their algorithm could classify skin cancer at a level that was the same as 21 dermatologists.

Separately, IBM's Watson Genomic Analytics completed a comparable analysis of DNA data of tumours, in a fraction of the time required by the human analysts. This year, new technology has enabled people over 40 to check their risk of developing melanoma using an online tool designed by QIMR Berghofer.

Prof Soyer says: "New high-technology imaging and personalised genomics, combined with artificial intelligence (AI) and decision support systems, will redefine the early diagnosis of melanoma and skin cancer. AI and its adoption in dermatology is proceeding rapidly, such as identifying potential characteristics of melanoma; and it is being integrated into software for different types of imaging platforms. "

Dr Salvatore Scuderi, dermatologist with the ACD and Convenor of the 2017 ASM says: "The 'Dermatology and the Future session will also include talks on the Dr Google phenomenon, caveats to technology in dermatology and a discussion panel on the topic. The subject matter should make for a lively debate."

Prof Soyer says: "Devices will change the day-to-day practice of dermatologists. We will more or less exclusively see patients with cancer and suspicious lesions that have to be removed and have more time for counselling on treatment because we will not have to see all the patients who have harmless skin lesions.

Smartphone dermoscopic imaging with built-in AI is likely to be the most accessible method for skin lesion analysis in the future, but it doesn't see the whole patient, so I am optimistic that human dermatologists will always be needed."

ENDS

References

Esteva A, et al., Dermatologist-level classification of skin cancer with deep neural networks. Nature. 2017;542(7639):115-118.

Kazimierz O, et al., Comparing sequencing assays and human-machine analyses in actionable genomics for glioblastoma. Neurology Genetics. 3 (4) e164

Links to further information

[Annual Scientific Meeting website](#)

[QIMR Berghofer](#)

[A-Z of Skin](#)

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About the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):

The ACD is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. They provide authoritative information about dermatology to Government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.

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