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What might the health workforce look like in a world where machines learn?

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Technology advancements over the next decade will significantly change the nature of work. The advent of artificial intelligence augmented decision making and support across all professions and fields, including health, will pose challenges and opportunities for the health workforce of the future. Technology change has significant implications for the focus of skills development of health professionals to ensure their employability in a world where machines can learn and health professionals will have access to huge data sets on which decision making about care can be made. The power of these new systems will outstrip the accuracy and speed of that a human can make based on their professional knowledge base alone.

This session shares findings of a research project undertaken by the Australian Medical Council and Australian Digital Health Agency on building a digitally capable medical workforce. We explore discussion questions related to digital health across the Australian and New Zealand Health Workforce:

• What ethical dilemmas will the use of AI augmented decision making and support bring to the fore for resolution in health and require of the health workforce?
• How can we better prepare the health workforce to focus on what they add to health by way of humanising care beyond what a machine can achieve more efficiently and cost effectively?
• What do healthcare workers of the future need to learn, their role in the inter-professional health team, as well as, how they should be assessed?

Integral to shifts in practice is workforce development and engagement of education providers, accreditors and health systems. The joint efforts of these key players in the health sector will involve curricula renewal, which reflects work practice change to technology integrated workflows, as well as, a focus on professional uptake and commitment to lifelong learning across the health workforce education continuum.