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Digital Health Trends Journal

Editorial

Digital Health Trends: Driving Innovation in Patient-Centered Care

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Various events happen everywhere globally; however, those that profoundly influence the lives, health, and future of people and nature are singled out. The first ones are natural consequences, while the second ones are the result of human activities on the Earth. Some of them are positive and promising, while others are negative and challenging. These phenomena are called global megatrends.

The list of megatrends is not limited to the technological development acceleration, economic and political instability, changes in the world's growth areas, population decline and aging, climate change, resource limitation, and urbanization. Each of them represents a "world" behind the scenes, with thousands of studies, congresses, policies, and laws having been created about it. Almost all of the megatrends mentioned are directly or indirectly linked to the health and medical sector. Some of them are health-promoting and strengthen well-being, while others lie at the core of health problems and issues.

Technological development megatrend that is accelerating is one of the major opportunities the healthcare sector could leverage. Over the last decade, data generation has increased by more than 45 times, and on average, each person has about 8 connected devices.[1] Meanwhile, the cost of data storage and processing is also dropping rapidly, with the cost of storing each terabyte of data going down from $3.5 billion to $10 to $18 over the last 50 years.[2] Technologies that were emerging have grown and developed along with human capabilities and creativity, thus becoming technological trends, among which are artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality, drones, the Internet of Things, robotics, 3D printing, and the blockchain ecosystem.

What will happen in front of these threats, namely youth migration, aging, and declining effective populations with higher prevalence of chronic diseases, based on increased fossil fuel consumption due to increased urbanization and development of megacities, environmental and biosecurity crises, refugees from the sinking of countries and cities that will reach 200 million by 2100, and the provision of basic resources for humans that will increase by more than 40% by 2030 compared to 15 years ago, will occur in the fields of food, water, and energy.[3]

Digital health is both an umbrella concept and a practical framework that uses information and communication technology to reduce health threats. It seeks to address medical and healthcare challenges through the application of emerging technological trends. Today, health systems face some of the most pressing issues, including the aging population, the rise of chronic diseases, shortages of medical staff, and gaps in training. At the same time, digital health aspires to advance its ideal, personalized healthcare, prevention, prediction, and participation-based care.[4]

Scholarly publications are fundamental to the evolution of digital health, as they enable the creation and expansion of best practices. They serve as valuable venues for researchers, clinicians, and technologists to share evidence-based results, innovative methodologies, and lessons learned from project implementations. By giving peer-reviewed acceptance, journals ensure that to the new calls in telemedicine, wearable technologies, or AI-driven diagnostics, rigorous testing and credibility

Author's Biosketch

Taha Samad-Soltani received his PhD in Medical Informatics in 2016 from Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He currently works as an Associate Professor and researcher within the international digital health ecosystem. His research interests include, but are not limited to, artificial intelligence applications in healthcare, virtual and augmented reality in medical simulation, as well as telehealth and mHealth. He has played a notable role as a mentor and has been involved in promoting entrepreneurship in digital health projects and events.

are attached. What is more, this is the step that not only solidifies the scientific base of digital health but also allows the practitioners as well as the policy-makers to choose the implemented solutions that have been verified to be effective in improving the patient's outcomes, increasing efficiency, and ensuring the safety norms. To put it briefly, journals are the vehicles that connect the validated knowledge of today with the possibilities of tomorrow, thus leading the transformation of healthcare in a fast-changing technological environment. By doing so, journals accelerate innovation, bridge the gap between research and practice, and allow for the ecosystem to develop in a manner that is inclusive, sustainable, and respectful of the needs of patients and providers.

The Mission of Digital Health Trends Journal

The mission of *Digital Health Trends Journal* is to be recognized as a vibrant forum in which innovations, academic research, entrepreneurship, and product development are brought together in the healthcare sector. The journal is primarily focused on publishing solid peer-reviewed academic work but it holds a wider view beyond the norm. In fact, the journal intends to support not only the voices of young and operative researchers but also those of entrepreneurs, who are leading the way in digital health, by their creativity, applied knowledge, and trailblazing projects. We have focused on several goals that will help digital health activities not only in the Middle East but all over the world as follow.

Empowering the Next Generation of Researchers

New researchers are the source of new ideas, technology adoption skills, and a readiness to question the already known things. The journal understands their crucial role in achieving patient-centered care via digital innovations. By drawing attention to their results, the journal creates the conditions in which early-career researchers are able to disseminate their research, take part in international collaborations, and be acknowledged for their contributions. Such an authorization is, apart from being an investment in their careers, a trigger that speeds the global spread of digital health solutions.

Bridging Academia and Entrepreneurship

One of the most frequent origins of revolutionary healthcare is at the point where research meets entrepreneurship. The entrepreneurial startups and ventures are the ones that turn the theoretical concepts into the practical instruments, be it through the use of AI in diagnostics, health devices that are wearable, or patient data systems that work on blockchain technology. By presenting the entrepreneurial activations in which the journal is engaged, it gives them not only the opportunity to perform academic research but also the venue to attract investors and customers. By doing this, it moves the gap between the discovery of the laboratory and the implication in the real world, thus making sure that digital health trends are not just limited to theory but also prevail in the enhancement of patient outcomes.

Building a Collaborative Ecosystem

The journal considers itself a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration. It invites researchers, engineers, data scientists, and policy makers to engage in discussions on digital health, fostering a holistic dialogue. By welcoming contributions from diverse fields, the journal helps cultivate a growing and vibrant community.

We warmly invite researchers, clinicians, and innovators to submit their work to *Digital Health Trends Journal*, contributing to global dialogue and advancing patient-centered digital health innovation.

Competing Interests

None.

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