

# Healthcare Innovation NEWS

## Thought Leaders' Corner

### Q. Does Healthcare Rely too Much on Technology and Ignore the Human Element?

No. Technological innovations in wearable biosensors, low-cost sequencing and detection of genomic alterations and analyses of large data sets will continue to be an integral part of providing better healthcare. However, technology alone will not be a substitute for the compassion clinicians and researchers have for patients, but integrating innovative technologies can help reduce cost, enhance accuracy and provide more comprehensive data analysis. It will lead to more efficient provision of healthcare services and assist in the discovery of important new therapies, while providing more opportunity for clinicians and caregivers to focus on patient communication and gaining a meaningful understanding of patient needs.

From a research perspective, precision medicine, which has been accelerated by technology, has led to disease insights that are yielding exciting new discoveries. It is a powerful approach to research that can change treatment paradigms. These advances are particularly encouraging for those with rare diseases, for which there are few treatment options, and in providing more targeted treatments for illnesses affecting large segments of the population.

The potential for digital health and wearable biosensors in improving all of our lives is only beginning to be explored. If the data from such devices can be appropriately collected, assembled and analyzed, they will provide important insights for caregivers and researchers while empowering patients like never before.

Looking to the future of healthcare technology, we must embrace the promise of better patient care, experience and outcomes. This new world need not come at the expense of the human touch.



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