



Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Clinical Medical and Surgical Practice

Date: 06 May 2026; Time: 10 am to 11:15 am, EST (New York Time)

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/sti.php3>

Background of the event

In view of the scale of today's global challenges and the great potential of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to deliver responses, global cooperation in STI is indispensable to achieve health- and education-for-all. Global partnerships around STI are necessary to mobilize financial and knowledge resources from governments, businesses, academia and civil societies and unfold the potential of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Both public and private sectors play an essential role in financing research and development. Therefore they are essential to create a balanced strategy that leverages the strengths and weaknesses of both.

Current trends indicate that the world is not on track to achieve the SDGs, but science-based tools can help drive change. Advanced digital technologies are set to change the way we work and live. While scientific evidence is key in addressing complex global challenges, science is not a cure-all. Technological advancements can improve living conditions, but they have also often increased inequalities in certain instances, leading to increased frustration among those left behind. The scientific community needs to communicate their work and the inherent uncertainty of the scientific process more effectively.

Concept Note: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/2026-STI-Side-Event-Concept-Note.pdf>

Key issues discussed

When we work together – across national borders, across groups, disciplines and stakeholder groups – we as humanity can harness science and technology to the benefits for all of us. We need to look and appreciate the benefits of long-term commitment to fundamental research, but we also need to look ahead and anticipate challenges and possibilities. What is urgently needed is to enhance international solidarity and cooperation, revitalize global trust and partnerships in STI research and development. Objectives of this Side Event is:

1. **Aligning AI with Social Objectives:** Technology leadership by the private sector is not new. What is new to AI is unprecedented level of control and understanding that private companies have over the technology, an imbalance that limits the ability of Governments to steer AI development in the public interest. The dominance of a few private companies in AI is creating new security risks. One programming error can have rapidly diffused effects around the world. An AI oligopoly could create vulnerabilities for countries. Even

AI projects aimed at social impact may feel the pressures of the profit motive and capital markets.

2. **Prioritizing Ethics and Societal Impacts and Guiding AI for Shared Prosperity:** The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) recommends the following areas of collaboration for global collaboration/governance: UN Member States can collaborate with the private sector to develop public AI infrastructure. A global facility - modelled on how CERN was built as an international scientific research center – could provide equitable access to AI infrastructure – Creating Shared Digital Infrastructure.
3. **Need for a global AI Hub.** An AI-focused center and network – could serve as a global hub for AI capacity-building, technology transfer, and technical assistance for developing countries.
4. **Open–AI, Open-data, open-science, and open-source models** can unlock knowledge and resources, fueling inclusive AI innovation – and creating Open Innovation.

WHEC Statement: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/2026-STI-Side-Event6-May-2026.pdf>

Key recommendations for action

Our interconnected world needs open science to help solve complex social, environmental, and economic challenges and achieve the SDGs. Access to scientific knowledge should be as open as possible, but sometimes access may need to be restricted, for example to protect human rights, confidentiality, intellectual property rights, personal information, threatened or endangered species, and sacred and secret indigenous knowledge.

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) recommends, promotes and implements UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science. It asks Member States to:

1. Promote a shared understanding of open science and set out diverse paths to achieving it.
2. Invest in infrastructure and activities that contribute to open science.
3. Invest in training, education, digital literacy and capacity building to support open science.
4. Foster a culture of open science and standardization of data collection and interpretation.
5. Extra emphasis should be on the explainability of artificial intelligence (AI) models to optimize their acceptance, as partners in patient care, and to ensure patient and physicians safety, within medical and surgical practice.

YouTube Video Program: <https://youtu.be/otXL5r0-Koo>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otXL5r0-Koo>

UNESCO Response: http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/3187_ADG-SC-letter-to-Dr-Rita-Luthra.pdf

