

APACMed

**MEDTECH
FORUM**
ASIA PACIFIC 2024

**THE DEC-AI-DE OF INTELLIGENT
HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS**

5 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNTEC CONVENTION HALLS 405 & 406, SINGAPORE



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Welcome Address by APACMed Chairman John Collings



John Collings, Chairman of the Board, APACMed and President, Asia Pacific, Stryker, kicked off the special 10th Anniversary edition of the Asia Pacific MedTech Forum with a welcome address to audiences from around the world by reflecting on the organisation's significant contributions to advancing healthcare access across the Asia Pacific region. John shared personal experiences of navigating regulatory and market access challenges, underscoring the value of a supportive community like APACMed.

From supporting governments with testing standards during the pandemic, harmonising regulatory standards, championing startups, to addressing key issues such as ESG, localization, and AI, John highlighted APACMed's key achievements over the past decade.

John also discussed the emerging era of intelligent healthcare, emphasising the opportunities and challenges presented by new technologies like AI. By fostering collaboration, advocating for innovation, and addressing ethical considerations, and with the strong participation of its members, APACMed is poised to continue driving positive change in the healthcare landscape in the decades to come.

“Our ambition is clear and through the collective might of our members and partner organizations, together, we can drive long lasting positive change that will shape the MedTech environment for the years to come.”

John Collings, Chairman of the Board, APACMed and President, Asia Pacific, Stryker

AI in Healthcare for a Smart Nation - Address by Singapore SMS Low Yen Ling



Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade & Industry and Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth, opened the forum by highlighting how the healthcare industry is poised for a significant transformation with the advent of AI, and that Singapore is well-positioned as a launchpad for MedTech companies, particularly in harnessing AI. She concluded her speech by encouraging everyone to come together as a MedTech ecosystem to cooperate and drive progress, growth, and innovation in the MedTech industry.

Forum at a Glance

Breaking the mould, this special 10th anniversary edition of the forum offered a dynamic experience unlike any before, fostering deeper interaction and collaboration. Focusing on the theme of "THE DEC-AI-DE OF INTELLIGENT HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS", delegates ushered in a new era of engagement

MedTech Forum in Numbers



2000+
ATTENDEES



1000+
NETWORKING
APP DELEGATES



101
INTERNATIONAL
SPEAKERS



36
HOURS OF CONTENT



28+
PARTICIPATING
COUNTRIES

With a main plenary featuring globally renowned speakers ranging from industry executives to healthcare transformation advisors and pioneers, these multistakeholder perspectives provided fresh insights on how intelligent care can become a reality.

Besides the main plenary programme, the Forum featured a Marketplace with technology booths (for corporates and startups), Dialogue Dens where delegates participated in thought-provoking debates and networking dialogues across diverse topics, and a Start-Up Zone to connect investors to innovation companies.

Forum Theme & Reflections



APACMed's 10-year journey coincides with a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, necessitating innovative breakthroughs.

The Asia Pacific (APAC) region is home to a burgeoning, aging population, accounting for 60% of the world's people today and projected to host one-quarter of the global population aged 65 or older by 2050. Yet, this demographic shift is juxtaposed with stark disparities in clinical, social, and economic conditions, impacting healthcare outcomes across the region.

Despite efforts to enhance the quality and accessibility of care, APAC grapples with a rising disease burden, a severe shortage of doctors (1.7 per 1,000 people), and high rates of clinician burnout (up to 61.5%). Moreover, the region's relatively low healthcare spending (6.9% of GDP compared to the global average of 10.35%) exacerbates these challenges.

Compounding these healthcare supply issues is the evolving patient landscape. A growing number of APAC consumers (85%) now demand tailored healthcare experiences, seeking personalized treatment options delivered on their terms.

How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) unlock new opportunities to enhance patient care and optimise healthcare outcomes in the next decade? The AI MedTech market in APAC is expected to grow at 28% (versus global average of 44.4% between 2024 and 2028) presenting prime opportunity to deliver groundbreaking solutions. This year's forum placed a spotlight on AI and its transformative potential fuelling a more intelligent healthcare system that personalises delivery, empowers data-driven decisions for better clinical outcomes, optimises operations, and sparks crucial conversations about ethics in responsible AI development and deployment.

In this section, we highlight four major thematic takeaways from the discussions at MedTech Forum 2024.

As the Asia Pacific region faces increasing healthcare challenges, AI offers innovative solutions to address these pressing issues, while education empowers individuals and communities to improve their health and well-being. Together, AI and education can help create a more equitable and accessible healthcare system for all.

Forging a New Era of Access in Healthcare Through Education and Technology



During a fireside chat with Sharanjit Leyl, International Moderator Chancellor of Bath Spa University, Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai discussed the transformative impact of education. Education prepares a child for the future and that future includes their health. Many aspects related to health are part of one's school life. Reproductive health, for example, is one of the fundamental foundations that helps keep girls in schools. Malala emphasised that education can be a powerful catalyst for improving health outcomes. By expanding access to education, nations can empower many with better healthcare opportunities, particularly those who are often left behind. Education creates a ripple effect of positive change. She called on young girls today to pick up where she left off to create their own powerful movements.

Malala spoke powerfully on the intersection of education, technology and healthcare. Her words were a catalyst for policymakers, healthcare practitioners, medical technology companies and other stakeholders to reimagine access to patient care in the age of AI. She particularly highlighted the importance of having more female representation in the healthcare sector, both in research and corporate leadership.

Unlocking Data and AI for Enhanced Public Healthcare Delivery

The panel discussion on "Unlocking Data and AI for Enhanced Public Healthcare Delivery" delved into the transformative potential of AI in optimising healthcare operations, mitigating talent shortages, and enhancing disease prevention for improved population health management. The panelists addressed the challenges of scaling AI-driven solutions across the diverse healthcare systems in the APAC region, considering varying levels of infrastructure and technological readiness.



The session emphasised the need for collaboration among stakeholders to address current and future healthcare challenges and strengthen healthcare systems across the APAC region. By fostering efficiency, accessibility, and patient-centricity, AI can help improve healthcare outcomes for millions of people.

Outcomes



Is AI Delivering Better Patient Outcomes or Just Overhyped?

Dr. Brent James, a renowned pioneer in healthcare quality improvement and patient safety and a strategic advisor to the governments of Sweden, Singapore, and Saudi Arabia on healthcare delivery reform, delivered a thought-provoking keynote on “Is AI Delivering Better Patient Outcomes or Just Overhyped?”

Dr. James emphasized the potential of innovative initiatives to enhance patient outcomes, streamline processes, and foster evidence-based practices within the healthcare sector.

Following the keynote, a distinguished panel of experts convened to discuss the real-world implications of AI in patient care. The panelists engaged in a lively debate exploring the following key questions:

- **Can AI Deliver on its Promise?** While AI holds immense potential, the panel acknowledged that its capabilities are not without limitations. They emphasised the importance of realistic expectations and responsible implementation to avoid overestimating AI's potential.
- **Tangible Evidence of AI's Impact:** The panelists shared examples of how AI is already making a positive difference in patient outcomes. These included improved diagnosis accuracy, personalised treatment plans, and more efficient administrative tasks.
- **Barriers to Accelerating AI Adoption:** The panel identified several challenges hindering the widespread adoption of AI in healthcare, such as data privacy concerns, lack of interoperability, and the need for skilled AI professionals.
- **Addressing Skepticism About AI's Human Touch:** The panelists addressed the concerns of those who fear that AI may replace human interaction in healthcare. They emphasised that AI is intended to augment human capabilities, not replace them. By automating routine tasks, AI can free up healthcare professionals to focus on providing compassionate and personalised care.

Overall, the session provided valuable insights into the current state of AI in healthcare and highlighted the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. As AI continues to evolve, it is essential to strike a balance between harnessing its potential and ensuring that it is used ethically and effectively to improve patient care.

Operations

AI is rapidly transforming the landscape of operations across various industries, including healthcare. From automating routine tasks to optimising complex processes, AI has the potential to revolutionise how organisations function. In several main plenary sessions, we explored the transformative impact of AI on operations and discussed strategies for future-proofing organisations in the face of rapid technological advancements. By leveraging AI effectively, healthcare and MedTech organisations can enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and ultimately contribute to our shared mission of greater healthcare access and improved patient outcomes.



Hacking Healthcare

Tom Lawry, AI Transformation advisor and best-selling author of “Hacking Healthcare”, delved into the most impactful drivers of AI in revolutionising healthcare for positive change. Drawing from his book, Tom offered actionable strategies and real-world case studies to illustrate practical applications.

He showcased AI's ability to streamline healthcare processes, leading to improved patient care. Additionally, Tom highlighted how AI can revolutionise patient outcomes through precision medicine and personalised treatment plans. He demonstrated how AI can reduce costs, improve resource allocation, and enhance workflow efficiencies in healthcare settings. Tom also emphasised the importance of upholding ethics and patient safety in AI applications, discussing the need for ethical guidelines, transparent decision-making, and robust data privacy measures. Finally, he highlighted the importance of collaboration among healthcare providers, industry, and policymakers to fully realise AI's potential and accelerate its adoption.

Future Proofing with AI Talent

In an engaging discussion moderated by Vikram Kapur, Global Head of Healthcare and Life Sciences Practice, Bain & Company, and comprising Vy Tran, President of Asia Pacific and Japan, Siemens Healthineers, John Collings, President of Asia Pacific, Stryker and John Eng, Vice President Healthcare, Singapore Economic Development Board, panelists discussed AI's best applications, identified necessary skills for the future healthcare workforce, and explored Singapore's role in supporting the Medtech AI ecosystem. The conversation emphasised the key point that despite AI advancements, healthcare remains human-centered. While AI can augment human capabilities, it cannot replace human expertise. They also stressed the need for cultural transformation to foster innovation and collaboration within healthcare organisations. By developing the necessary skills, fostering innovation, and leveraging Singapore's strengths, the Asia Pacific region can position itself at the forefront of AI-driven healthcare.



Ethics

As AI continues to rapidly advance and become increasingly integrated into healthcare, it is imperative to critically examine the ethical implications of its deployment. The potential benefits of AI in healthcare are immense. However, with these advancements come significant ethical considerations that must be carefully addressed to ensure that AI is used responsibly and beneficially. At the forum, we explored the ethical dilemmas surrounding AI in healthcare, discussed strategies for mitigating risks, and envisioned a future where AI is harnessed to improve patient outcomes while upholding the highest ethical standards.

In both our main plenary panel discussion, “The Ethical Dilemma of AI”, and the Dialogue Den session “AI in Healthcare & MedTech - Ethics to Care, Ethics to Share!”, panelists discussed the challenges associated with the collection, use, and transfer of sensitive health data, which is often subject to varying data laws across jurisdictions. Additionally, the sessions addressed the shift from direct contact with healthcare professionals to increased automation via technology and the growing need for regulation of healthcare providers offering AI-driven solutions. The panelists delved into the ethical challenges associated with AI deployment in healthcare, including issues such as bias, transparency, and accountability. They also explored the opportunities and limitations of AI in healthcare, highlighting the potential benefits while acknowledging the risks and challenges. The sessions emphasised the importance of ethics in shaping the technology-driven future of medicine. By considering ethical principles, healthcare providers can ensure that AI is used responsibly and beneficially, creating a more equitable and sustainable healthcare system.



Interactive Dialogue Dens and Opportunities for Networking

A special feature in this year's forum, delegates participated in engaging discussions at the MedTech Forum. We connected the brightest minds across diverse MedTech topics, fostering debate, collaboration, and learning on the most transformative ideas shaping the future of MedTech.



Mark your calendars for 16 - 17 September in India for

MEDTECH FORUM

ASIA PACIFIC 2025

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The APACMed mission is to improve the standards of care for patients through collaborations among stakeholders to jointly shape the future of healthcare in Asia Pacific.