



NEWS / PROFESSION

Artificial Intelligence in Acupuncture: A Prudent Path Forward

NCCAOM AI TASKFORCE SEEKING SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE

Editor's Note: This article was submitted by the NCCAOM.

As healthcare continually embraces new technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making a notable impact in acupuncture. While AI's integration promises enhanced treatments and patient outcomes, it necessitates a cautious approach focused on safety and efficacy.

Balancing AI's Innovation With Safety

AI's potential to revolutionize healthcare through data analysis and insights must be balanced with safety and ethical use, particularly in acupuncture. Ensuring patient safety involves several critical steps:

- **Validation and Regulation:** AI tools in acupuncture must undergo thorough testing and meet safety and effectiveness standards before clinical use.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Acupuncturists should clearly communicate how AI is used in their practice, including the benefits and risks, to maintain trust.
- **Education and Training:** Practitioners need ongoing training on AI usage, focusing on data security and integrating AI insights with traditional acupuncture methods.
- **Ethical Use:** Patient autonomy, privacy, and consent are paramount. AI should be used ethically to prioritize patient well-being.

The Role of the NCCAOM AI Taskforce

In recognition of the potential of AI to transform acupuncture practice, the NCCAOM has established an AI Taskforce. This taskforce aims to explore the responsible integration of AI into acupuncture practice, with a focus on ensuring patient safety, maintaining ethical standards, and

promoting the highest quality of care.

The NCCAOM AI Taskforce is seeking subject-matter experts with defined skills and education to serve in various capacities. These experts will play a crucial role in shaping the future of acupuncture by providing guidance, expertise, and insights into the responsible use of AI technologies. If you are interested, qualification requirements and online volunteer application instructions are [available here](#).

Collaborative Efforts for Safety

Successful AI integration in acupuncture requires cooperation among practitioners, developers, regulators, and patient groups to ensure safety and develop best practices.

AI's union with acupuncture offers exciting possibilities for healthcare, demanding a careful, ethical approach to realize its full potential safely. By working together, the acupuncture community can leverage AI to improve patient care while upholding the highest safety and ethical standards.