COMMENTS

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Glimpses of the Use of Generative AI and ChatGPT in Medical Education

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ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. This is achieved by using algorithms and neural networks for machine learning and deep learning. ChatGPT is an AI-powered chatbot that can generate responses on any topic based on the user’s input or queries. In this review, the focus is on the potential applications of generative AI and ChatGPT in the fields of medical and health professions education. It is important to educate both educators and students about the impact of using generative AI, such as ChatGPT, which is widely used through generative adversarial networks (GANs). In the field of healthcare, GANs can analyze vast datasets to assist in diagnosis, patient data management, and analysis. Students use ChatGPT to obtain factual answers, write papers and translate languages. It can help students with their assignments by summarizing literature reviews and generating new ideas. In medical education, educators use ChatGPT to develop learning activities, assessments, and curricula, enhance student learning, and even generate research papers for publication. However, students need to use generative AI carefully so that it does not impede their ability to think critically or write effectively. Guidelines are being formulated in different institutions to regulate the use of this immensely powerful tool. This review could highlight the scope of incorporating ChatGPT into the field of medical education.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, generative adversarial networks, ChatGPT

INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) explores how computer systems can perform tasks requiring human intelligence. John McCarthy introduced AI at a Dartmouth conference in 1956 (1). He defined AI as “the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially computer programs.”
The use of AI relates to using computers to simulate human intelligence, but AI does not have to confine itself to biologically observable methods (2). A comparison between the human brain and the computer shows that the human brain is superior due to its learning capability, the trillions of active and renewable connections between biological neurons, and the economy of its energy consumption (3) [Fig. 1].

![Figure 1. Relationship between the computer and the human brain](image)

Computer programming can solve several challenging problems, such as searching, pattern recognition, learning, planning, and induction. In 1961, Marvin Minsky suggested that computers can enhance their problem-solving abilities through pattern recognition techniques, leading to increased efficiency (4). Subsequent authors worked on building up a cognitive architecture, which would be able to make a good diagnosis of the problem using multiple criteria (5). The search area can be limited by combining pattern recognition with learning from accumulated experiences. By using planning methods, the given search can be replaced with simpler and more appropriate exploration. To manage broader problems, constructing models of environments will be required.
using the induction process. The core ingredients of AI have been grounded in mathematics and computing as high-performance computing infrastructure, large datasets, and algorithm development (6). AI tools are intelligent machines that learn continuously and perform tasks that would require human intelligence, such as language translation, decision-making and speech recognition (7). AI systems apply a component of the technology known as machine learning (ML), composed of specialized hardware and software. Large volumes of labeled training data are ingested, and rules are created by programming about turning the data into usable information. ML algorithms use past data to forecast new output values, allowing software applications to produce predictive results (8). McCulloch and Pitts (9) were the first to create a prototype of an artificial neuron and artificial neural networks. Subsequently, this prototype has been described as a hallmark event and fundamental to the development of cognitive science and AI (10). ANNs are faster at processing information, and they can, for example, be used to predict dementia from a clinical dementia rating, asymptomatic cirrhosis of the liver from the demographic and laboratory data of chronic hepatitis patients, 1-year survival in neuro-oncology patients with brain metastasis, mortality rates in hip fracture patients and the risk of developing hypertension from the previous demographic and body mass index data of patients (11, 12, 13, 14, 15).

Unlike the predictive AI described above, generative AI such as Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer (ChatGPT) is an unsupervised or partially supervised ML framework that allows the feeding of a vast volume of data, discovers the patterns, and uses learned ways to produce new data. ChatGPT is a newly developed conversational chatbot that uses natural language processing to provide responses that resemble those of a human in response to user input. This technology has gained global recognition for its remarkable ability to produce logical, organized, and informative
answers (16). A recent study showcased the use of ChatGPT in preparing for English teaching in Malaysia (17). According to this qualitative research by Lou (17), educators have insufficient knowledge about ChatGPT. Following the release of ChatGPT, several conversational chatbots appeared on the internet: Google Bard, Bing AI, Replika, Claude, Jasper.ai, Baidu’s UNIT, Meta’s Wit.ai, and Perplexity. However, its conversational fluency, ability to reinforce learning from human feedback, and user-friendly interface made ChatGPT popular, with approximately 180 million users currently using it (18). To ensure informed decision-making about ChatGPT, university faculty must be provided with more information and education about its use (19). This review analyzes how generative AI and ChatGPT can be used in medical and health professions education.

**LITERATURE SEARCH METHODS**

This review aims to improve educators’ awareness of the potential use of generative AI and ChatGPT in medical and health professions education. Given its broad scope of use, it will focus on the specific areas described in the literature or experienced by the authors while using the desktop and mobile versions of the ChatGPT platform. We used a structured search strategy to gather articles from EBSCOhost, ProQuest, PubMed, and Google Scholar. Only articles written in English were selected. The following search terms were used: “artificial intelligence,” “generative AI,” “ChatGPT,” “GPT-4” in combination with “medical informatics,” “machine learning,” “progress testing,” “curriculum development,” “medical student,” “research,” and “assessment.” The articles selected focused on AI, ChatGPT, and GPT-4 studies using quantitative or qualitative research. Some articles describing the in-depth concepts of AI were included to explain the work-
process mechanism of ChatGPT. Articles published within the past ten years were included. However, we were compelled to use specific articles beyond the initial time range in certain areas where only a few publications were available within the past ten years. Background information on AI, generative AI, and ChatGPT was obtained from the review articles and reviews by technology experts published in the latest editions of renowned international magazines to capture the latest changes in the configuration of the versions of ChatGPT.

**GENERATIVE AI**

Generative adversarial networks (GANs), are algorithmic architectures consisting of two models—a generator model and a discriminator model. During the training process, the generator model produces a large amount of both fabricated data and authentic data when a dataset is fed into the model. Two models operate together in this process. The generator model generates artificial data to try to deceive the discriminator model, while the discriminator model verifies that it can differentiate between factual and fabricated data (20). GANs have worked as an efficient generative model to facilitate the generation of images, videos, and voice. Since 2014, many new GANs-based models have been proposed to improve the stability and quality of the generated results (21) and GANs have played a key role in simulating various types of learning environments and helped develop practical skills in a virtual teaching assistant model. The experimental results have indicated that the model improved students’ learning outcomes, increased their motivation for learning and satisfied individual student needs (22). In one study, a GAN-based tool was used to generate a sequence of images from descriptive text. This tool was used in the visual storytelling process facilitating technology-enhanced learning with improved logical reasoning (23).
INTRODUCTION TO ChatGPT

ChatGPT is a chatbot developed by OpenAI and launched on November 30, 2022. It is built on top of OpenAI’s GPT-3 large language model (LLM) and has been fine-tuned (involving an approach to transfer learning) using both supervised and reinforcement learning techniques (24). Subsequently, the GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 models were released on November 6, 2023 and March 14, 2023, respectively, via the chatbot product ChatGPT Plus. Previous AI-enabled chatbots had limitations, including a lack of understanding of context and decision-making capability and short dialogue exchanges due to limited memories. The GPT-1, introduced in June 2018, used books as training data to predict the next word in a sentence and demonstrated language understanding tasks in an unsupervised learning model. The GPT-2, introduced in February 2019 and later relaunched in November 2019, produced coherent multi-paragraph text. Compared to the GPT-1, trained with 117 million parameters, and the GPT-2, trained with 1.5 billion parameters, the GPT-3 was trained with 175 billion parameters. The LLM capability of the GPT-3 allowed advanced text-generation capacity including tasks such as answering factual questions, drafting emails, writing articles, creating poetry, generating programming code, and even translating between languages. Although the GPT-3 could understand context, make decisions, and process long threads of dialogue to continue conversations humanly, academia was hesitant to use it. The references it generated were not found on Google Scholar or PubMed, and the responses related to the scientific disciplines were superficial and needed more critical analysis. The GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 worked on these limitations and were released with exponential improvements such as better model alignment, an understanding of user intention, and a lower likelihood of generating offensive, wrong, and
dangerous outputs. The GPT-4 model could connect to the internet in real time, increasing factual accuracy, and could change its behavior according to the user request (25).

With GPT, the user can draft documents, write computer code, answer questions about a knowledge base, analyze texts, create conversations, translate languages, and simulate characters for games. The present version of the OpenAI API platform is available via https://platform.openai.com/examples and presents 30 examples of applications for use in education or business (26). The use of ChatGPT as a writing assistant has made it easier to produce well-structured reviews from a vast amount of text. It has also assisted in translating content from one language to another and provided students with novel ideas for their assignments (27). Faculty members in health professions education use ChatGPT to generate questions. After comparing the generated items with those produced by the faculty from an accredited nursing program, it was found that the clarity, grammar, and difficulty levels of the items were similar (28).

**ChatGPT IN PROGRESS TESTING**

Medical and health science educators often employ Bloom’s taxonomy to plan and map the assessment of learning activities. The taxonomy table has identified four categories of knowledge, namely, factual, conceptual, procedural, and metacognitive (29). Resources containing accurate knowledge about medicine are often distributed and arranged in a non-interactive manner in textbooks and online resources. ChatGPT offers detailed information on specific topics, including technical terms related to the subject matter. It is essential to assess whether ChatGPT, an AI language model with access to information but not deep knowledge, can provide answers based on a critical understanding of concepts. A group of researchers from a medical school in Germany used the ChatGPT interface to input 400 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) from the Berlin
progress test. These questions covered 27 medical specialties and 14 organ systems. Only 65.5% of the progress test questions answered by ChatGPT were correct. Each answer had 35 words on average, and it took 22.8 seconds to respond to a single MCQ. ChatGPT provided a detailed explanation along with those answers that were correct (30).

The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) is the exam used to determine eligibility for a medical license in the United States. Examinees must answer at least 60% of MCQs accurately to pass the USMLE. ChatGPT’s GPT-4 version had an accuracy rate of 86.72% for Step 1, 91.5% for Step 2, and 85.23% for Step 3 in the USMLE self-assessment exam. The case study has shown GPT-4’s ability to discuss medical reasoning, create explanations for students, and even craft new scenarios around the medical cases (31). The ability of ChatGPT to answer questions from higher-order examinations indicates that students can use it to learn complex concepts of different medical subjects.

The ChatGPT is constructed on an LLM that can aid clinical decision-making. A high-quality MCQ can be generated when a specific and well-defined prompt is provided. These questions can help develop personalized learning and formative assessments for students [Fig. 2].
ChatGPT IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

To shift medical education practices from being information-driven to AI-driven and implementing LLM-based curriculum development requires the identification of potential concerns and challenges. AI can help in needs analysis, identification of content gaps, and comprehensive coverage of subjects. With the help of GPT-4, we can create measurable learning objectives and receive content suggestions (32, 33). Large language models can suggest suitable teaching methodologies based on best practices in medical education. When requesting a lesson plan from ChatGPT, the user needs to provide sufficient information on the topic’s complexity, the student’s level, and any other relevant details, such as common mistakes or challenging concepts (34). Fig. 3 shows the example of a prompt and response regarding the generation of a lesson plan on introductory algebra (OpenAI, 2023) (26) [Fig. 3].
The journal, JMIR Medical Education, interviewed ChatGPT, which demonstrated its ability to suggest appropriate teaching methods in medical education (35). When asked how generative language models can help create personalized learning experiences on diabetes, ChatGPT proposed interactive simulations, concept maps, case studies, educational videos, quizzes, and self-assessments. ChatGPT was then prompted to generate a simulation, which shows how insulin interacts with glucose to regulate blood sugar levels (35).

When using AI tools such as ChatGPT to aid in the medical curriculum, educators need to verify the information produced using reliable, evidence-based resources. Sometimes, ChatGPT may miss some steps and provide references that do not exist. It may also erroneously include a link to...
ChatGPT AND STUDENT LEARNING

The free version of ChatGPT-3.5 offers assistance to students with grammar, summarizing, text-to-command conversion, English translation, data classification, unstructured data parsing, and natural language conversion to Python. Both GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 have the potential to create chatbots or virtual assistants that can help students engage in problem-solving and answer questions through natural language interaction. This can be an entertaining and engaging way for students to demonstrate their knowledge and communication skills. Chatbot applications can offer students quick feedback and personalized answers to their inquiries (37).

Teacherbot is increasingly used for administrative aspects of teaching in online courses. Teacherbot deals mainly with content delivery, essential feedback, and supervision, thereby replacing traditional teaching assistants. In the online Masters in Computer Science Program at Georgia Institute of Technology, an AI teaching assistant for the “Knowledge-based AI” course successfully met all of the students’ expectations. The teaching assistant operated through IBM’s Watson platform (38).

Boost is a mobile application that is seamlessly integrated with Canvas LMS. This app serves as a personal assistant for online learning (39). One of the ideal examples of an intelligent tutoring system is the Andes physics tutoring system. The mean post-test exam score of the students who did their homework on the Andes was approximately one standard deviation higher than that of
students who did the same homework with pencil and paper (40). Pump Algebra Tutor, SQL tutor, and Mathematic tutor are other notable examples.

**ChatGPT AND RESEARCH ARTICLES**

ChatGPT has reportedly generated articles that are similar to scientific papers written by academic researchers. Questions have been raised about the ethics of using ChatGPT in writing any dissertation component in educational institutions. Concerns about the accuracy of the texts on research-related topics generated by ChatGPT (41) have been raised. The researchers instructed ChatGPT-3.0 (the free version) to rewrite five articles published before 2021. The articles consisted of an original work, a case series, two case reports, and a technical report. To ensure accuracy, the references generated underwent cross-checking through PubMed, Google, and Ovid Medline. The articles were structured like typical journal article with an introduction, main body, conclusion, and references. The generated case report was well-written and included a detailed description of the differential diagnoses for the median nerve ganglion. However, four out of the five generated articles were inaccurate and unrelated to the topic (42).

Although ChatGPT’s research reports may not always be completely accurate, educators consider the LLM in ChatGPT to be useful for summarizing and categorizing literature reviews and quickly synthesizing large amounts of information. Medical education literature has in the past been hindered by language barriers, putting non-native English speakers at a disadvantage. With ChatGPT, manuscripts from non-native English-speaking countries can be translated and corrected, giving them an equal chance to be published as scholarly work. AI tools offer the convenience of fast feedback on text drafts, assistance with language revision, structural support,
and the ability to carry out repetitive tasks. By substituting human reviewers, the processing time for publication can be reduced (43).

CONCLUSION

ChatGPT can answer factual questions, write articles, create poetry, generate programming code, and even translate between languages. Chatbot applications can give students feedback and facilitate personalized learning. ChatGPT can be trained to act as a tutoring system and help students complete their homework. Students can improve their preparation for licensing examinations by using ChatGPT’s GPT-4 version. This tool generates practice questions through intelligent prompts. Making such efforts can help reduce the high subscription costs of test preparation and learning platforms such as Kaplan, AMBOSS, and Lecturio. It can also be used by the lecturers to develop the curriculum, construct lesson plans, and create questions. It can save lecturers’ preparation time and allow them to dedicate more time to face-to-face or online teaching sessions. Relying solely on ChatGPT for answers to difficult queries may hinder the development of critical thinking and writing abilities among students studying for medical and health professions. Several universities have implemented measures to prohibit students from using ChatGPT. Some institutions are permitting their students to use ChatGPT while simultaneously adjusting their plagiarism policies to ensure that the use of this tool does not compromise academic integrity.

Teaching assistant tools powered by AI have the potential to transform the educational experience of students enrolled in programs with a high volume of students. As there are reports of both factual accuracy and AI hallucination, it is crucial to establish AI education guidelines and policies. This
will help protect both students and teachers from the dangers that can arise from unethical data use and piracy, and from the possible harassment of students due to their unpredictable and improper actions.

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