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Speech Title

From Data to Diagnosis: The Role of TCM Physicians in AI-Driven Medical Research

從數據到診斷：中醫師如何參與 AI 醫學研究？

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to progress, the active involvement of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners in AI-based medical research is essential for advancing the scientific development of TCM. This talk explores how clinical TCM physicians can effectively collaborate with AI researchers in multiple phases of research, including patient recruitment, clinical data collection, annotation of TCM-specific features, algorithm design, and manuscript writing. In a project focused on acupuncture safety, TCM clinicians collected and annotated real-world needling images, facilitating the training of a deep learning model capable of detecting needle breakage and retention. This model helps improve patient safety by offering real-time monitoring of acupuncture procedures. In another set of studies targeting early dementia screening, TCM doctors were responsible for community subject enrollment, pulse waveform measurement, and the interpretation of harmonic pulse indices relevant to cognitive function. Machine learning models developed from these datasets successfully distinguished between individuals with Alzheimer's disease and healthy controls, demonstrating the potential of combining pulse diagnostics with AI to create noninvasive, efficient, and accessible screening tools. These interdisciplinary collaborations illustrate that TCM practitioners are not merely data contributors but active co-investigators who provide clinical insights and guide the selection of meaningful features grounded in traditional diagnostics. Through such partnerships, the empirical wisdom of TCM can be translated into measurable, evidence-based knowledge. This integrative approach not only strengthens the clinical value of AI models but also opens new directions for digitizing and modernizing traditional medicine in a way that maintains its holistic perspective while aligning with contemporary scientific standards.