

## OFFICIATING SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

### AI in Medicine – Summer School 2025 Closing Ceremony

28 November 2025

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1. We enter this hall at a moment when the architecture of global healthcare is being rewritten—not gradually, but fundamentally. The last decade has shown us that the future of medicine will not be shaped by incremental improvements, but by systems that think, learn, and evolve alongside us.
2. The defining question for every society is no longer *“How advanced is your healthcare?”* It is now *“How intelligent is your healthcare ecosystem?”*

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished colleagues,

Esteemed partners and scholars -

3. We stand today at the threshold of a new era—an era where medicine is no longer defined solely by human expertise, but amplified by intelligence that learns, predicts, and heals with unprecedented precision.
4. This is not the future. This is now. And Universities like ours must lead this transformation with courage, clarity, and conviction.
5. The world’s leading systems are not merely treating illness. They are predicting physiological failure before it happens, modelling digital replicas of human organs, and deploying AI engines capable of analysing medical data with a scale and precision beyond any human capacity.

6. This is the new strategic landscape. Those who master it will redefine human wellbeing. Those who wait will be permanently dependent on those who build.
7. AI in medicine is not about machines replacing clinicians. It is about ensuring that our human expertise is amplified, not constrained, by the speed and complexity of the modern world.
8. It is about shifting healthcare from:  
  
*reaction to anticipation,*  
*generalisation to precision,*  
*static knowledge to dynamic intelligence.*
9. And this requires a new breed of talent—a generation that is unafraid to cross disciplines, to interrogate the unknown, and to see healthcare as a living, evolving ecosystem.
10. Universiti Malaya's role is to intervene in the trajectory of national capability-building, to shape the intellectual scaffolding on which future medical systems will be built.
11. Yes, we have the Program AI in Medicine – Summer School 2025. But more importantly, we are participating in a national recalibration of what medical education means.

12. We are moving from memorisation to modelling, from diagnostic intuition to evidence-driven computation, from traditional clinical pathways to digital ecosystems that integrate engineering, data, biology, and human behaviour.
13. Malaysia cannot afford to be a follower. We must be the designers, the **builders**, and the innovators of our own digital health ecosystem.
14. This programme is therefore more than an educational activity—**It is a national investment in talent that will determine our competitiveness, resilience, and health sovereignty.**
15. Universiti Malaya is proud to stand at the core of this agenda. All of you, the participants, will inherit responsibility—the responsibility to imagine and construct the medical landscape that Malaysia will need for the next 30 years.
16. This is leadership, not attendance. This is nation-building, not an academic exercise. In this new era, the physician who understands AI will redefine care. The engineer who understands clinical reality will redefine technology. The scientist who understands data will redefine discovery.

17. The next frontier is not AI as a tool, but AI as an architecture—a living system that learns from population data, adapts to changing disease patterns, and continuously refines clinical decision-making.
18. Healthcare will no longer belong to silos, but to integrators—individuals who can speak across disciplines, who understand both algorithms and anatomy, both computation and compassion.
19. This is the culture we must build. A culture where expertise does not defend turf, but converges to solve the problems that affect human life.
20. AI reduces false-negative rates in cancer screening by up to 40%. Predictive models can detect sepsis six hours earlier than clinical observation.
21. AI-assisted drug discovery shrinks development cycles from seven years to eighteen months. Robotics enable precision that stabilises outcomes in complex surgeries. These breakthroughs are not miracles. They are the product of bold national decisions to invest early, strategically, and unapologetically.
22. The world is moving toward self-learning health platforms that integrate genomics, lifestyle data, environmental trends, and real-time physiological signals. This means that future health systems will not only treat disease, but *predict* its emergence, *model* its trajectories, and *shape* interventions before symptoms even surface.

23. Countries that understand this shift will build health ecosystems that are smarter, more scalable, and more resilient than anything we have seen in the last century.

24. But let us be clear: the future of AI in medicine is ultimately a future about humanity, not machines. The deeper purpose of intelligent healthcare is to restore time to clinicians, dignity to patients, and clarity to decision-making.

25. As AI takes over the burdens of complexity, our challenge is to elevate the uniquely human capacities—empathy, ethical judgement, and the courage to care. The societies that thrive will be the ones that use AI to magnify human potential, not diminish it. And this requires leaders, thinkers, and innovators who understand not just how technology works, but what it is *for*.

26. I want to thank the entire organising team led by Nadia and Lai Kuan, two of which I have known for a long, long time, and who have been steadfast and unwavering in your support and loyalty to the programme and to the field.

27. As I close this week-long programme, I want to leave one message:

*The future does not reward countries that are cautious.  
It rewards those that are prepared.*

28. Prepared with talent. Prepared with vision.  
Prepared with the courage to experiment, disrupt, and innovate.

29. To our students and participants— use this programme not as a classroom, but as a launchpad. To our educators and partners— may you continue shaping the ecosystem that Malaysia needs, not the ecosystem that tradition prescribes.
  
30. And to all of us—may we build a healthcare future where intelligence, compassion, and technology stand together in service of humanity.
  
31. With that, I am honoured to officially close the Program AI in Medicine – Summer School 2025.

Thank you