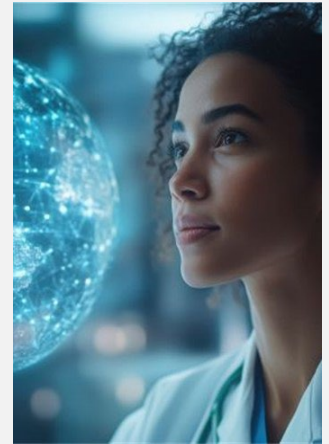


Leading Responsibly: AI Stewardship in Canadian Healthcare

Lunch and Learn Session Overview

April 9, 2026



Executive Summary

Health system leaders across Canada are navigating a period of rapid transformation shaped by workforce pressures, technological disruption, and rising expectations for equity, access, and outcomes. Artificial intelligence, broadly defined as systems that learn from data to make predictions, generate insights, and support decision-making, is an increasingly important part of this shift. This session focused on the implications of artificial intelligence for health leadership, reinforcing that its impact will depend on how it is led, governed, and integrated into practice.

Speakers emphasized that AI is not simply a technical tool, but a catalyst for broader system change. Its introduction is reshaping decision-making, redefining roles, and challenging existing models of accountability. Practical examples from British Columbia highlighted its potential, including the use of AI-assisted approaches to reduce wait times for cardiac imaging, demonstrating how targeted implementation can improve access and system efficiency.

A central theme was that the challenge is not adoption alone, but the responsible and intentional use of AI. Leaders are being asked to navigate uncertainty, assess risk, and make decisions in environments where evidence is still emerging. This includes balancing opportunities for automation and efficiency with potential impacts on the workforce, patient trust, and equity.

There was strong emphasis on maintaining human oversight, including validation of AI-generated outputs and clear accountability for decisions. AI was consistently framed as augmenting, not replacing, clinical and operational judgment. This was reinforced through examples such as Vetted Medical, which evaluates AI models for clinical safety, fairness, and equity prior to broader implementation.

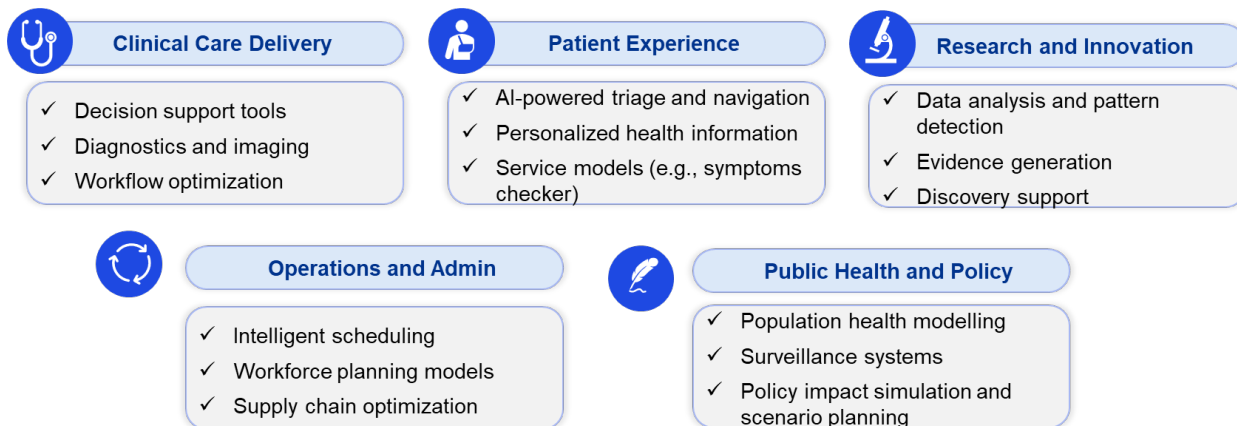
Effective AI implementation also requires a multidisciplinary approach. Successful adoption depends on collaboration across clinicians, data scientists, administrators, and system leaders to ensure solutions are practical, safe, and aligned with care delivery realities. There was also recognition of unintended consequences, including the risk of over-reliance on AI, underscoring the need for accountability at all levels of the system.

AI has the potential to both reduce and exacerbate existing inequities. Without deliberate action, data-driven systems may reinforce biases or shift resources away from underserved populations. Ensuring equitable access across different roles and settings within the health system was identified as a key priority. Leaders therefore play a critical role in ensuring that AI is implemented in ways that are ethical, inclusive, and aligned with public value.

Beyond governance structures, effective AI leadership requires curiosity, digital literacy, and the ability to ask critical questions about how technologies are developed, deployed, and evaluated. It also requires engaging a broader range of voices across the system, including clinicians, operational staff, and communities, in shaping how AI is used.

The session underscored the need to operate within tension, balancing innovation with caution, speed with deliberation, and system optimization with human-centered care. In this context, leadership is less about control and more about stewardship, enabling systems to learn, adapt, and respond responsibly to rapid change.

AI Across Health Systems



Looking Ahead

The discussion signaled that AI will be a defining force in the next phase of health system transformation. The extent to which it delivers value will depend on leadership capacity to steward its use responsibly, and align technological advancement with human-centered care. Progress will require a deliberate focus on building the skills, structures, and cultures needed to lead effectively in an AI-enabled environment.

About the speakers

Aranka Anema, MSc, PhD, Director of Healthcare Innovation, KPMG



Aranka Anema is Director of Healthcare Innovation at KPMG, where she supports healthcare leaders in designing and scaling digital and AI-enabled initiatives that deliver measurable system impact. Beyond KPMG, she is a PhD-trained public health scientist with more than 20 years of experience across academia, global health, and public sector advisory. Aranka has worked extensively with governments and health systems on infectious disease surveillance, innovation, and evidence-based policy, and currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia and Boston Children's Hospital.

May Tuason, Executive Director, Clinical Architecture, Digital Experience & Innovation, PHSA



May leads system-level initiatives focused on improving care delivery, access, and digital experience across specialized provincial services. A registered nurse by training, she brings more than two decades of experience spanning frontline care, health system operations, and large-scale digital transformation. May is known for translating strategy into execution within complex healthcare environments, ensuring technology investments are clinically meaningful and scalable.

Dr. Vincent Dumouchel, Founder of Vetted Medical



A physician and digital health leader, Dr. Dumouchel is the founder of Vetted Medical, a physician-led firm focused on the independent clinical validation of medical AI. Trained as a family physician, he brings frontline clinical insight alongside deep experience in digital health, AI, and health system transformation. He advises public and private sector organizations on evaluating and implementing emerging technologies to support evidence-based, risk-aware decision-making.

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