

**10<sup>th</sup> National Bioethics Conference**  
**A pre-conference training and peer engagement workshop**  
**On**  
**Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare:**  
**Learning together towards responsible AI**

Being co-hosted by  
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM),  
Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES) and *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics (IJME)*, and  
Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC Vellore)

**Date:** Tuesday-Wednesday, January 28-29, 2025 | **Mode:** In-person  
**Venue:** Seminar Hall, Block-1, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, TN, India  
**Time:** 0900 to 1730hrs

## Session themes and synopses

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Day 1   Tuesday, January 29, 2025	
<b>Governance matters towards responsible health-AI technology (Part 1)</b> (Part 2 is on Day 2   Session X)	
<b>Session IV</b> <b>Segment 2</b> 1415 – 1445 hrs (30 mins)	<b>AI Governance framework for India: An indigenous approach rooted in the broader 'less than perfect' ecosystem of AI development and deployment in India</b>

**Session faculty:** Shambhavi Naik and Bharath Reddy, Takshashila Institution, Bengaluru

### Synopsis

The governance of AI-enabled healthcare must address various tensions, such as balancing data access with privacy protection, improving work efficiency with potential job losses, and weighing technological benefits against costs. Different AI applications in healthcare encounter these challenges to varying degrees, requiring tailored governance measures.

Understanding market failures and identifying public interests can help establish broad governance priorities. Additionally, analyzing specific tasks impacted by AI over different time horizons makes risks and opportunities more concrete. Such analysis highlights governance opportunities like creating better datasets, building accountability in healthcare systems, and upskilling medical personnel to improve healthcare outcomes.

As AI develops along with other technologies in the healthcare space, periodic reviews will be needed to assess their impacts holistically rather than individually. A short, medium and long-term outlook for integrating AI, contextualised to India, would be essential to understand the underlying ethical concerns and unintended consequences and to effectively manage the risks its application may bring about.

Day 1   Tuesday, January 29, 2025	
Health-AI technologies   Legal and regulatory landscape of India	
<b>Session V</b> <b>Segment 2</b> 1600 – 1700 hrs (60 mins)	<b>The DPDP Act 2023 and appreciating interfacing of law, regulations, ethics, and human rights: A deep dive</b>
<b>1700 – 1300 hrs</b>	<b>Discussion time for Segment 1 and 2 together</b>

**Session faculty: Shivangi Rai and Shefali Malhotra, Centre for Health Equity, Law & Policy (C-HELP), Indian Law Society (ILS), Pune**

### Synopsis

The first part of the session will focus on India’s Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), 2023 and the interlinkages between data protection and artificial intelligence. The relationship between data protection laws and artificial intelligence is crucial for ensuring ethical and responsible technology use. The DPDPA establishes the law for handling personal data, emphasizing individuals’ rights and informed consent. As AI systems often rely on large datasets, compliance with these regulations is essential to protect privacy and prevent misuse of sensitive information. The session will discuss how and to what extent the DPDPA regulates and provides guidance on the adoption of AI in the health sector.

The session will also focus on the legal, ethical, equity, and human rights issues raised by the adoption of artificial intelligence tools in the health sector that must be addressed to ensure responsible use. Key issues include data privacy, informed consent, black-box AI and the potential for bias in AI algorithms, which can exacerbate health disparities. Transparency and explainability are crucial, as healthcare providers and patients must understand AI decision-making processes to foster trust. Additionally, accountability for AI-driven outcomes raises questions about liability and responsibility in patient care. In this context, the session will discuss issues of data quality, transparency, explainability and accountability as vital for AI models. The session will be rounded up by discussing the available ethical guidelines for AI in India and also provide a comparative law perspective on emerging regulatory approaches of AI in some countries.

Day 2 | Wednesday, January 29, 2025

**Session VI**  
**0930 – 1015 hrs**  
**(45 mins)**

**Multistakeholder perspectives regarding backend processes, challenges, and opportunities: Insights from pan-Indian empirical research**

## **AI for Healthcare: Understanding Data Supply Chain and Auditability in India**

**Session faculty: Amrita Sengupta and Shweta Mohandas**

### **Synopsis**

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies constitutes a significant development in the Indian healthcare sector, with industry and government actors showing keen interest in designing and deploying these technologies. Even as key stakeholders explore ways to incorporate AI systems into their products and workflows, a growing debate on the accessibility, success, and potential harms of these technologies continues, along with several concerns over their large-scale adoption. A recurring question in India and the world over is whether and how these technologies serve a wider interest in public health. The emergence of AI auditing mechanisms is an essential development in this context, with several stakeholders ranging from big-tech to smaller startups adopting various checks and balances while developing and deploying their products.

Through this workshop we will share the findings of our recently published report, which aims to understand the prevalence and use of AI auditing practices in the healthcare sector. This presentation, drawing on a pan-India multistakeholder empirical research, looks at how different stakeholders in the healthcare ecosystem are involved in AI development and deployment, and the challenges and opportunities as experienced by them. The presentation will focus on a few key questions:

- ✚ What is the current data supply chain infrastructure for organisations operating in the healthcare ecosystem in India?
- ✚ What auditing practices, if any, are being followed by technology companies and healthcare institutions?
- ✚ What best practices can organisations based in India adopt to improve AI auditability?

This presentation is a result of a mixed methods study, comprising a review of available literature in the field, followed by quantitative and qualitative data collection through surveys and in-depth interviews. The findings from the study offer essential insights into the current use of AI in the healthcare sector, the operationalisation of the data supply chain, and policies and practices related to health data sourcing, collection, management, and use. It also discusses ethical and practical challenges related to privacy, data protection and informed consent, and the emerging role of auditing and other related practices in the field.

Based on the findings, the presentation of the report offers a set of recommendations addressed to different stakeholders such as healthcare professionals and institutions, AI developers, technology companies, startups, policymakers, academia, and civil society groups working in health and social welfare.