COMMENy
DOI: 10.46765/2675-374X.2023V5N2P237

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Dear Drs. Nelson Hamersclak
and Fernando Barroso,

Congratulations for your article in the JBMCT
on AI and EI! Wonderful as you relate it to Al-
bert Einstein, Aldous Huxley, Antoine de Saint
Exupery, Charlie Chaplin and Fernando Pessoa!
There are two properties a good physician should
have: excellent knowledge of science and great em-
pathy for the patient. Medicine without careful science
is charlatanism, we know that many colleagues are
making lots of money with some sort of charlatanism.
That does not mean we scientific doctors know every-
thing, but we rely on reproducible studies. In some
cases we extrapolate from previous science got new
situations. However, extrapolations are easier with
deep and extensive knowledge. The extent of knowl-
dge is so large that we may need AI to use it. During
50 years my interest has been stem cells, physiology
of persistence, recruitment and differentiation on one
side and immunology on the other side. There are still
secrets on their resilience against radiation and che-
motherapy, their recruitment in steady state and the
expansion of reproduction. We are still learning on
clonal predominance and progression from CHIP two
MDS and AML. In immunology we have learned that
there are not only „go“ signals, but also „hold“ signals,
and a major question is the immune memory. Regula-
tory T cells are extremely important as are regulatory
B cells; suppressory macrophages are important in
addition to stimulatory M1. We transplant hematopoi-
etic stem cells from marrow and blood containing
extensive proportions of immunocompetent cells. We
know little about the immune memory of the donor,
often also of the patient; HLA-compatibility and CMV
serology excepted we know little about minor HAs,
microbial colonization and translation of microbial
peptides, latent viruses, immunizations by sexual con-
tacts. Meanwhile we know that HLA-differences are
not equal, but peptide binding motives are more im-
portant. Immune suppression alone is not construc-
tive, we are looking for tolerance inducing procedures.
AI may help to define the roles of thousands of factors
of patient and donor by evaluating gene sequencing
and microbial analysis. Already AI has an enormous
impact on diagnostics of the disease at an early stage.
Empathy for the patient is a difficult area to teach.
Kant’s philosophy may help, freely translated „treat
the patient as you would like to be treated as pa-
tient“. That means „tell him or her the truth, but
not without giving him/her a helping hand. Ac-
cept that you can learn from your patient as he/she
sees the problems. Through your knowledge
you always find a way for dealing with the prob-
lems. Think of „Le petit prince“ and take your re-
sponsability. There are many rules and juries that
may help in your orientation, but you are the doc-
tor of your patient hoping for the best treatment.

With best regards from a sénior,

Hans-Jochem Kolb