Information is Different Now That You're a Doctor

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Information has always been a major focus of clinical practice, and twenty-first century physicians face an even more data- and information-intense world than their predecessors. This lecture provides an introduction and overview of clinical informatics, the field that focuses on how data and information are acquired, used, and evaluated. It describes a number of the clinical, professional, and ethical issues related to data and information use in health care, including new emerging areas such as machine learning and artificial intelligence. It also lays the foundation for other content in the curriculum in clinical informatics.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the central role that data and information play in the practice of medicine
- Distinguish between the different aspects of information from a medical professional perspective including efficient and speedy retrieval, analysis of quality, and patient friendliness
- Describe the key issues of data in the electronic health record (EHR) to its use in data analytics, machine learning, and related areas
- Evaluate the discipline of clinical informatics as it pertains to medicine

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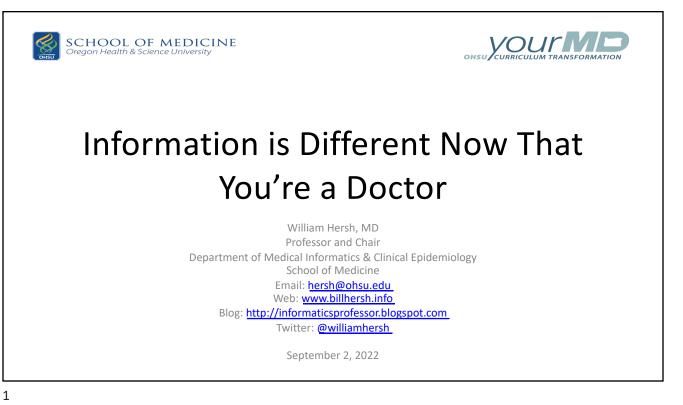
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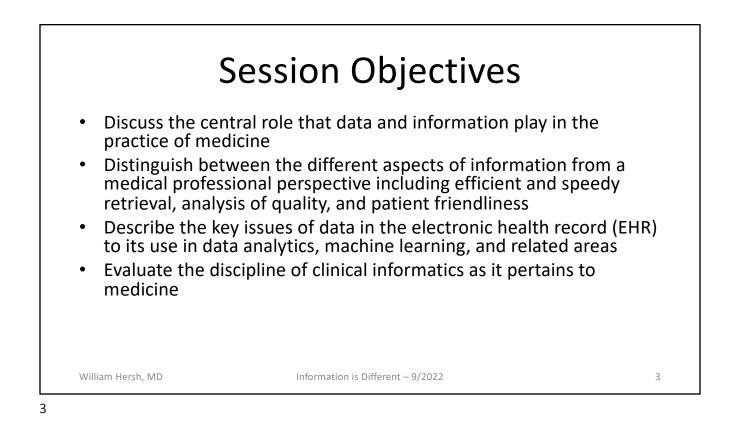


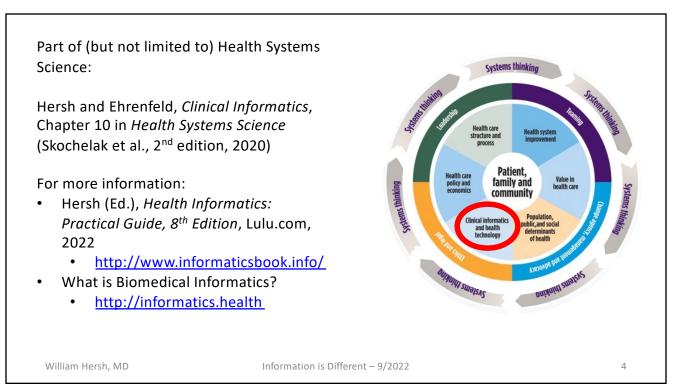
Disclosures/Conflict of Interest

None

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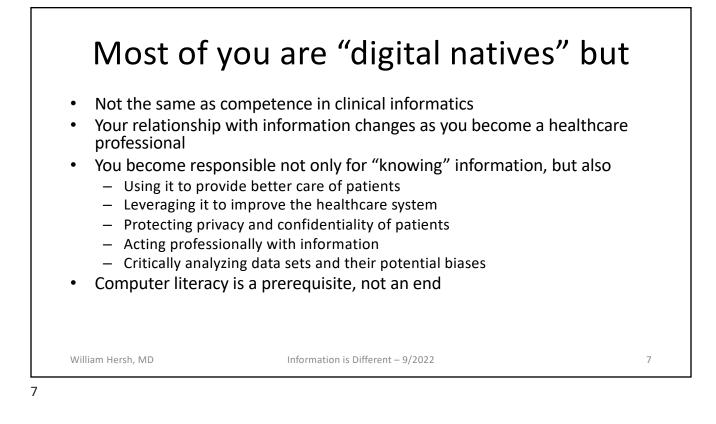
Information and the new medical student (Shortliffe, 2010)	HEN I FIRST MEET WITH PRECLINICAL MEDICA students, I make a point of asking them wha they believe will receive the greatest focus of their attention once they are in clinical prac- tice. The most common response, not surprisingly, is pa- tients, and yet it is clear to experienced practitioners that the correct answer is information—in the service of the patients. The need for information underlies essentially a clinical work: the questions asked during a patient history the tests ordered, the books read, and the questions aske of colleagues. A key correlate to information is knowledge that elusive concept that justifies all the years of educatio and training, and that provides the background sense of wha is true that allows gathering and interpreting informatio appropriately. Clinicians often start with data (eg, "Mr Jone creatinine is 5.2 mg/dL"), those individual elements that com bine to allow a synthesis of observations with what is know
William Hersh, MD	in order to create summary statements of information (eg "Mr Jones has renal failure").

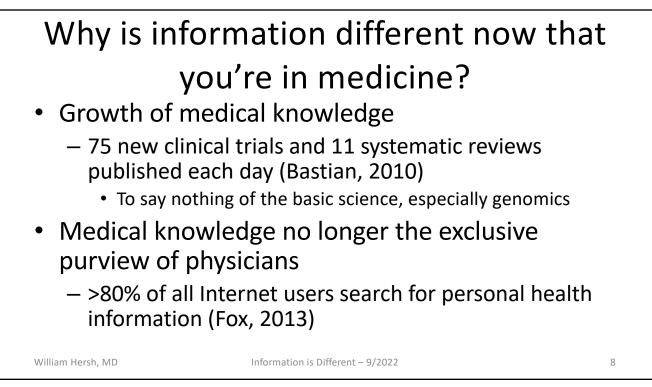
Information skills are essential for medical practice (Glasziou, 2008)

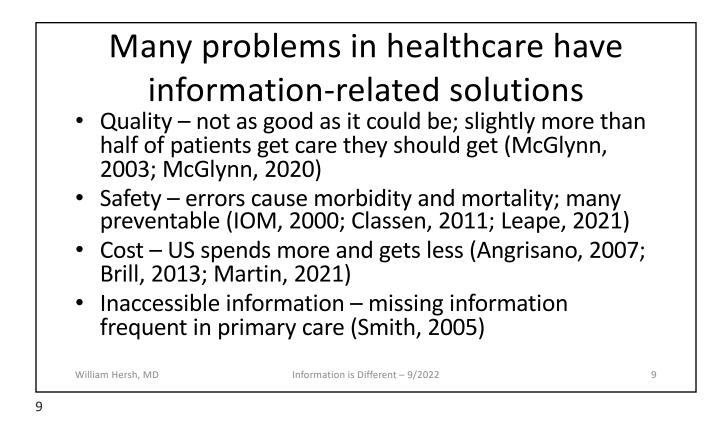
The search engine is now as essential as the stethoscope

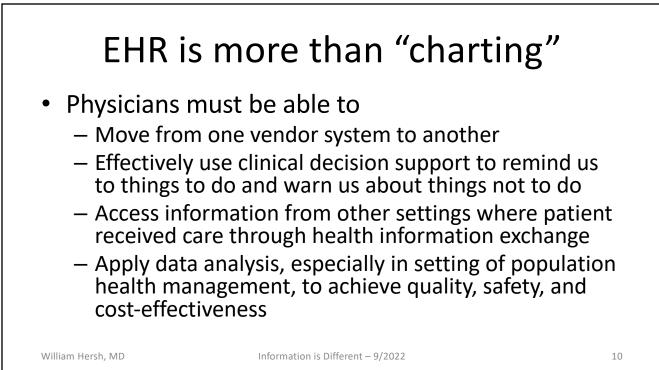
What we know about diseases, diagnosis, and effective treatments is growing rapidly. Today health professionals cannot solely rely on what they were first taught if they want to do the best for their patients. It has repeatedly been shown that clinical performance deteriorates over time.¹ A commitment to lifelong learning must be integral to ethical professional practice. However, the speed of the increase in knowledge—more than 2000 new research papers are added to Medline each day—represents a challenge.² The skills needed to find potentially relevant studies quickly and reliably, to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to apply sound research findings to patient care have today become as essential as skills with a stethoscope.

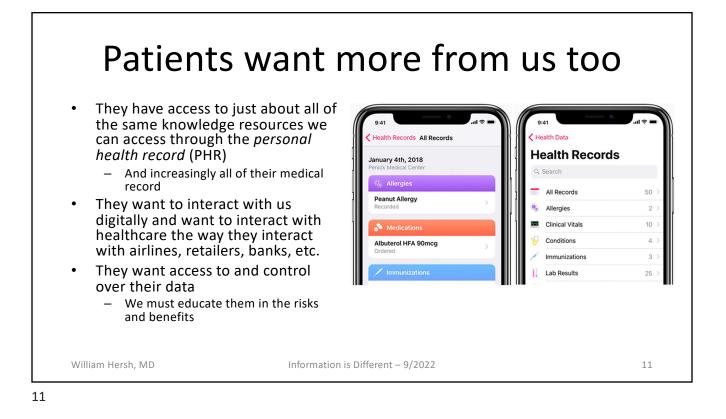
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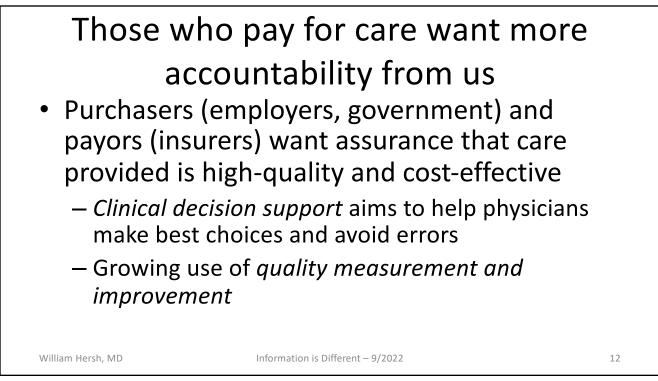


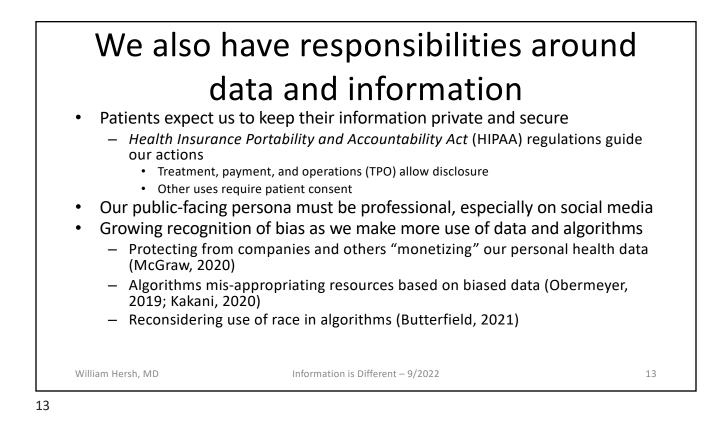


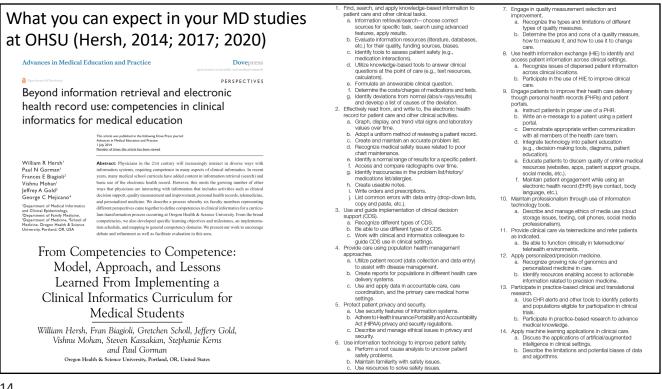


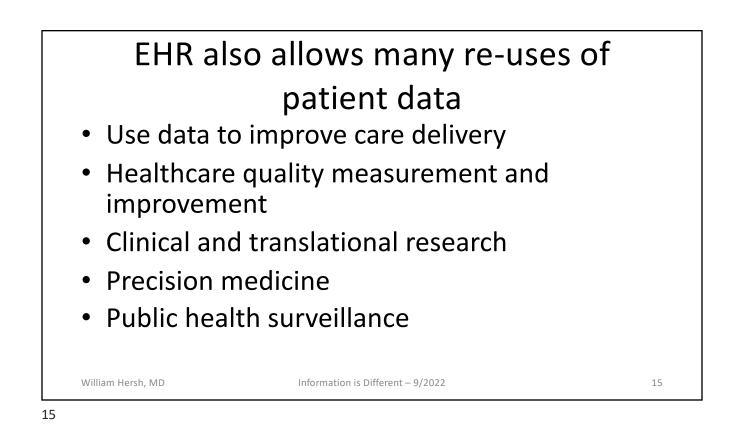




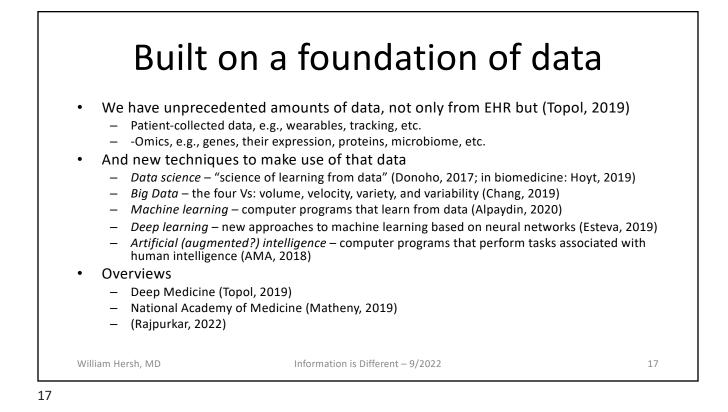










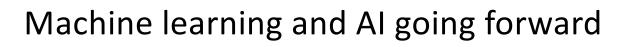


Machine learning will soon impact clinical practice

- Most success has been with image interpretation (Liu, 2019)
 - Radiology chest x-rays
 - Ophthalmology retinal images
 - Dermatology skin lesions
 - Pathology breast cancer slides
- But success in other areas
 - Predicting adverse events in hospitalizations (Rajkomar, 2018)
 - Generating clinical notes from patient and physician verbal interaction (Rajkomar, 2019)
 - Predicting protein folding from amino acid sequences (Jumper, 2021)
- Now need to translate basic science into clinical practice with clinical trials
 - As of 2021, only 65 randomized controlled trials in all of medicine (Zhou, 2021)

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- Must "democratize data" and algorithms (Allen, 2019)
- Address ethical concerns about use of data and algorithms (Chen, 2020)
- Need "algorithmovigilance" (Embi, 2021)
- Will AI replace physicians?
 - "Al won't replace radiologists, but radiologists who use Al will replace radiologists who don't," Langlotz, Stanford radiologist (Reardon, 2019)



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