

JOINT BIOENGINEERING SEMINAR SERIES



IMPACT OF 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY ON HEALTHCARE: TURNING AN ELEPHANT ON A DIME

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Abstract

Healthcare is in the midst of rapid changes in both treatments and delivery, and new technology is one of the driving forces behind these transformations. Understanding the impacts of the new, and future, technology is essential to direct the transformations in a way to best serve patients. Much research has gone into development of new equipment and treatments for physical ailments. Some of the developments are already being implemented, such as mobile monitoring of patients, while advances like 3-D printing of organs are still in future. Other investigations relate more to the cultural and managerial aspects of healthcare including electronic records and virtual visits. The need to balance improved healthcare delivery with patient privacy and data security concerns is crucial to allowing new technologies to be accepted by the public. Additionally, although it is thought that technological advancement will lead to better healthcare, that is not always the case when the overall health and well being of the patient is considered, rather than a narrow focus on curing whatever ailment is their current complaint. This presentation will give an overview of the ways in which 21st century technology is shaping the current and future transformation of healthcare.