

## Ethical Considerations Emerge from Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Biotechnology

Mahintaj Dara <sup>1\*</sup> and Negar Azarpira <sup>2</sup>*1. Stem Cells Technology Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran**2. Transplant Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran***Abstract**

The integration of Artificial intelligence (AI) in biotechnology presents significant ethical challenges that must be addressed to ensure responsible innovations. Key concerns include data privacy and security, as AI systems often handle sensitive genetic and health information, necessitating robust regulations to protect individuals' rights and maintain public trust. Algorithmic bias poses another critical issue; AI can reflect existing biases in training data, leading to inequitable healthcare outcomes. Transparency in AI decision-making is essential, as "black box" models hinder trust, especially in drug discovery and genetics. Ethical implications of genetic manipulation require careful scrutiny to define the limits of human intervention. Additionally, societal impacts must be considered to ensure equitable distribution of AI benefits, preventing the exacerbation of disparities. Engaging diverse stakeholders, including ethicists and policymakers, is vital in aligning these technologies with societal values. Ultimately, prioritizing ethics will allow us to harness AI and biotechnology's potential while safeguarding human rights and promoting equity.

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, Biotechnology, Ethics**To cite this article:** Dara M and Azarpira N. Ethical Considerations Emerge from Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Biotechnology. *Avicenna J Med Biotech* 2025;17(1):80-81.

**\* Corresponding author:**  
Mahintaj Dara, Ph.D.,  
Stem Cells Technology Research  
Center, Shiraz University of  
Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran  
**Tel:** +98 9177245503  
**Fax:** +98 71 36122240  
**E-mail:**  
[dara.mahintaj@gmail.com](mailto:dara.mahintaj@gmail.com)  
**Received:** 7 Sept 2024  
**Accepted:** 5 Oct 2024

**Dear Editor,**

I am writing to highlight the pressing ethical considerations arising from the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in biotechnology. As these two fields converge, they present remarkable opportunities for innovation, yet they also introduce a myriad of ethical challenges that must be addressed to ensure responsible and equitable advancements <sup>1</sup>. One of the foremost concerns is data privacy and security <sup>2</sup>. AI systems in biotechnology often rely on vast amounts of sensitive data, including genetic and health information. This raises critical questions about consent, ownership, and the potential for misuse of personal data. Establishing robust regulations and transparent data handling practices is essential to protect individuals' rights and maintain public trust. Another significant issue is algorithmic bias and fairness <sup>3</sup>. AI algorithms can inadvertently perpetuate existing biases present in the training data, leading to unequal treatment in healthcare and research outcomes <sup>4</sup>. It is imperative to ensure that AI systems are designed with fairness in mind, utilizing diverse datasets and continuous monitoring to mitigate bias. The transparency and interpretability of AI systems also warrant attention <sup>2</sup>. Many AI models operate as "black boxes," making it difficult to understand their

decision-making processes. This lack of clarity can undermine trust, particularly in critical applications such as drug discovery and genetic engineering <sup>2</sup>. Developing explainable AI models is crucial for fostering accountability and ensuring that stakeholders can comprehend and trust AI-generated insights. Moreover, the ethical implications of genetic manipulation and enhancement must be carefully considered <sup>5,6</sup>. The power to alter genetic material raises profound questions about the boundaries of human intervention in life. Establishing ethical guidelines and regulatory frameworks will be vital to navigate these complex issues and ensure that advancements align with societal values <sup>7</sup>. Finally, we must consider the broader societal impact of AI in biotechnology <sup>8,9</sup>. While these technologies have the potential to transform healthcare and agriculture, we must ensure that their benefits are distributed equitably and do not exacerbate existing disparities <sup>10</sup>. Engaging with diverse stakeholders, including ethicists, policymakers, and community representatives, is essential for aligning AI applications with the public good.

On the other hand, considering all the ethical issues surrounding artificial intelligence, this issue should

also be taken into consideration: The increasing reliance on AI presents significant challenges, particularly regarding the potential decline of natural human intelligence<sup>11</sup>. As AI systems become more integrated into daily life, they may inadvertently diminish human cognitive abilities over time. This occurs as individuals increasingly depend on AI for tasks such as decision-making and problem-solving, which can lead to a reduction in critical thinking and creativity<sup>12</sup>. Studies indicate that this dependency fosters a culture of laziness, where individuals may become less motivated to engage in complex cognitive tasks, relying instead on AI to perform these functions for them. Furthermore, the educational landscape may shift to prioritize technology over traditional learning methods, potentially stunting the development of essential analytical skills among students<sup>11</sup>. As AI continues to evolve, concerns arise that humanity could experience a gradual erosion of intellectual engagement, resulting in a population less equipped to navigate complex social and ethical challenges independently. This scenario underscores the necessity for a balanced approach to AI integration, ensuring that while we leverage its capabilities, we also foster and maintain our natural cognitive skills<sup>11,13</sup>.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, as we continue to explore the intersection of AI and biotechnology, it is crucial to prioritize ethical considerations. By addressing these challenges proactively, we can harness the full potential of these technologies while safeguarding human rights and promoting social equity.

### Acknowledgement

The authors would like to express their gratitude to Ms. Firooze Dara, the Language editor, for her valuable comments on editing and improving the English in this manuscript.

Funding: This work is supported by Shiraz University of Medical science.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

### References

1. Ashfi SA. Ethical Implications of Emerging Technologies: A Comparative Analysis of AI, Biotechnology, and Robotics. *Journal of Research and Innovation in Technology and Management (JRITM)* 2024;1(1).
2. Sheth D, Patel P, Pathak Y. Ethical Issues and Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Bioinformatics Concerning Behavioural and Mental Health Care. *Ethical Issues in AI for Bioinformatics and Chemoinformatics*: CRC Press; 2023. p. 72-86.
3. O'Brien JT, Nelson C. Assessing the risks posed by the convergence of artificial intelligence and biotechnology. *Health Secur* 2020;18(3):219-27.
4. Fu R, Huang Y, Singh PV. Ai and algorithmic bias: Source, detection, mitigation and implications. *Detection, Mitigation and Implications* (July 26, 2020). 2020.
5. Nagamarpalli RS. Biotechnology and AI. *Issue 3 Int'l J L Mgmt & Human*. 2021;4:4035.
6. Almeida M, Diogo R. Human enhancement: Genetic engineering and evolution. *Evol Med Public Health* 2019;2019(1):183-9.
7. Anomaly J, Johnson T. The ethics of genetic enhancement: Key concepts and future prospects. *Routledge Handbook of the Ethics of Human Enhancement*: Taylor & Francis; 2024.
8. Guan J. Artificial intelligence in healthcare and medicine: promises, ethical challenges and governance. *Chin Med Sci J* 2019;34(2):76-83.
9. Holzinger A, Keiblinger K, Holub P, Zatloukal K, Müller H. AI for life: Trends in artificial intelligence for biotechnology. *N Biotechnol* 2023;74:16-24.
10. Al-Delaimy A. Perspective of ethical issues and challenges of biotechnology in developing country. *Malaysian Journal of Public Health Medicine* 2022;22(1):242-51.
11. Ahmad SF, Han H, Alam MM, Rehmat M, Irshad M, Arraño-Muñoz M, et al. Impact of artificial intelligence on human loss in decision making, laziness and safety in education. *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 2023;10(1):1-14.
12. Halina M. Insightful artificial intelligence. *Mind & Language* 2021;36(2):315-29.
13. Sakai H, Matsuda K, Kikkawa N, Kajita S. Human divergent exploration capacity for material design: A comparison with artificial intelligence. *Computers in Human Behavior: Artificial Humans* 2024;2(1):100064.