

The 72nd Session of World Health Organization's (WHO) World Health Assembly (WHA72) took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 20 – 28 May 2019. The WHA is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all 194 WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. Held annually in May in Geneva, WHA has main functions of determining the policies of the Organization, supervising financial policies, reviewing and approving the proposed programme budget.

Empower medical care with innovation in AI

During this year's WHA, from 21 – 23 May, the "Health and Rights Innovation Exchange" was successfully launched by UNAIDS in partnership with global health and financing entities. The Exchange in Geneva has brought together as many as 3000 participants, including over 100 Ministers of Health. The "Health and Rights Innovation Exchange" provides an opportunity for countries to showcase their innovations, learn from each other and from innovators, and for innovators to connect with decision-makers, investors, communities, international organizations and implementers from around the world.

As one of the leading innovators in artificial intelligence (AI) in medical imaging, the Beijing-based Infervision Technology successfully stood out, after several rounds of selections by the organizers, as one of the 20 selected innovations in the medical field. It was thus invited to showcase at the interactive exhibition during the Innovation Exchange in Geneva. At the exhibition, Infervision showcased a variety of products which have already been put into use clinically, drawing much attention from the fellow attendees. These assistive screening products range from InferRead CT Lung, InferRead DR Chest to InferRead CT Stroke. Infervision has also presented its freshly launched deep learning platform in medical imaging -- InferScholar Center.

These assistive screening products and their algorithms have also caught the eye of Health Officials from UN and developing countries. As tuberculosis is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, lung screening is the first step to saving lives. UNAIDS has thus been promoting tuberculosis screening in developing countries. The AI-assisted screening products have therefore a great potential in the prevention and control of tuberculosis, especially in regions with limited medical resources and high population density. With advancement in screening, precise diagnosis and treatment, the survival rate from tuberculosis can be greatly improved while keeping the cost of disease control low.

The organizers expressed their expectations for this year's Exchange: "Ever since the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were adopted by world leaders in 2016, countries around the world have been working towards the SDGs. In order to reach the SDGs, new technologies, service delivery models and financing solutions need to be created and implemented. In the field of public health, leveraging innovation is not optional, it is essential. At the Exchange, we hope to create linkages between innovations, technologies and the needs of countries. Meanwhile, we also hope to connect innovations to the right funding and investment to scale for impact."

"Since its birth, AI has been inseparable from medicine, and technological innovation has brought new opportunities and challenges to the traditional medical industry. To us Infervision, innovation has always been the driving force of our company," said Kuan Chen,

founder and chief executive officer of Infervision, “in a short span of 4 years, Infervision’s products have been successfully deployed in more than 300 hospitals worldwide. Our perseverance with innovation in thinking, technology, product and service has brought us here.”

Today, besides the range of its AI-assisted screening products, Infervision has launched the iCR – InferVISION Global Clinical Collaboration Research Institute. With this, Infervision has started its journey in clinical research on AI in medical imaging, committing to the further promotion of the clinical discipline in medical AI. In the future, Infervision will continue to better integrate innovation, products and services into medical clinics, to further explore the value of AI in medical imaging, empowering medical care.

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After the 72nd WHA, from 28 to 31 May, Infervision was invited to the AI for Good Global Summit organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as well as the 5th meeting of ITU-T Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence for Health (AI4H) from 30th May to 1st June in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Focus Group AI4H was established by ITU-T Study Group 16 on 20th July 2018. It works in partnership with the WHO to establish a standardized assessment framework for the evaluation of AI-based methods for health, diagnosis, triage or treatment decisions. The Focus Group works closely with experts and professionals in the field of medicine and AI to promote the development of AI in healthcare.

At the 4th meeting of Focus Group AI4H in April, Infervision was nominated to be the leading innovator in the field of chest CT by members of the Group. It will work with experts and scholars to further promote global research and application of AI in medical imaging.

Experts from the Group pointed out the enormous potential of AI in the health sector and in promoting digital health, “this is because AI can be deployed to support medical and public health everywhere with a lower cost. However, due to the complexity of AI algorithms, it is difficult to differentiate between good and bad solutions, their pros and cons. Therefore, it is crucial for AI4H Focus Group to set up an international standard system for health related data, information, algorithm and process. This would empower AI in solving global health issues.”

Chen, Founder and CEO of Infervision expressed his gratitude for being the leading innovator in the field of AI-Assisted Volumetric Chest Computed Tomography, “AI in health industry has entered a stage which focuses on application of image interpretation and natural language understanding, but it faces many challenges at the same time. The standardization and transparency in assessment on AI methods would strengthen the international cooperation in the further development of AI in the health industry.”

Introduction of Infervision

Starting from 2015, the initial Infervision team adopted artificial intelligence deep learning technology in the medical imaging field, and founded Beijing Infervision Technology Co. Ltd. in January 2016. In the past four years, Infervision has committed to the assistive diagnosis of DR, CT, and MRI images through deep learning, and provided radiologists with highly effective solutions. Our product has reduced the substantial amount of workload and generated faster and more accurate diagnoses for radiologists.

Infervision is headquartered in Beijing and has offices and branches in Japan, the United States and Germany, dedicating to make the world a better place with the most advanced technology.

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After its products being deployed in various hospitals, Infervision has gained positive market feedback, as it relieves radiologists from laborious image interpretation, enabling them to focus on more valuable clinical cases. As of March 2019, Infervision has partnered with more than 300 top hospitals and medical institutions worldwide, helping physicians with over 33,000 everyday diagnosis, with its InferRead CT lung solution being one of the most popular assistive diagnostic systems worldwide.