



Apr 15, 2023 CKPR Thunder Bay



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So this is important that we know if someone has a mutation in, you know, that gene, then we would have better tools for treating those patients. Although we steeedo do more research for confirming those preliminary, you know, results. But those are very-- >> Lindsey: Very promising. >> --promising. >> Right? So how are these findings already being used by Women's College Hospital to improve the detection of cancer? >> Yeah, that's a very good question. You know, we have many familial breast cancer cases that when we test them for previously known, you know, genes mutation in those genes, we do not find any mutation in those genes. Okay, and then the family members are kind of in, you know, lingo. They don't know really what's going on, their family. So every time that we discover a new breast cancer susceptible to these genes, we have, you know, new genes to screen in those families and hopefully identify the genes responsible for higher, you know, incident rate of breast cancer in those families. >> Could someone just go and get tested for this? How does that work? >> Not at this point, at the, you know, clinical level. However if anybody interested to be tested, you know, for this gene, we can definitely recruit them in our research program at Women's College Hospital. >> What was this like for you to be part of this discovery? It had to be a big moment. >> Yeah, it's very exciting. Actually, this is just so you know international collaboration with our colleagues in Poland, my colleagues in Laval University in Québec. And this is a large project. And we are all excited about, you know, the gene and of course we have a lot of more work to do ahead of us. >> Yeah and speaking of that, what does this discovery do to further our understanding of all forms of breast cancer? >> That's actually a very good question. Because always, you know, people said that if hereditary cancer, you know, responsible only 5 to 10% of breast cancer, what's important to identify the genes associated with those hereditary cancer? And the answer is that, yes, the initial, you know, benefits of discovering breast cancer susceptibility genes is for those who carry a mutation, okay? However, every single gene that we identify as a breast cancer susceptibility gene will improve our general understanding about the biology of breast cancer. That eventually will help us to develop more better targeted, you know, treatments for breast cancer in general. >> Well it is a really, really exciting discovery. We appreciate you coming on and explaining it to us. Thanks, Doctor. >> Thank you for having me on your program. >> We know it holds immense promise for mankind, but it could also become our biggest threat. Artificial intelligence is evolving rapidly. So fast in fact, that some of the biest nameggs in the industry recently signed a letter that calls for a pause on development. We know AI will change our world, but what needs to happen to ensure that it's for the better? Joining us this morning is bioethicist Kerry Bowman, welcome back to the show. >> Happy to be here. >> Can we put a pause on AI? I mean, isn't it already out there? >> It's out there. But you know, the question with a pause is to what end? So, you know, Elon Musk and his team are essentially telling us we kind of need to take this summer off. But what is it we're going to do? So here's the problem, we don't have safeguards, we really don't. And it's moving very, very quickly. Also it's very hard to deal with a problem you don't fully understand. I don't understand it, a lot of the top minds in this world don't fully understand it. 'Cause we don't fully grasp the implications of what AI could or could not do. But here's a thing with recent developments, we're talking language here, we're not talking robotics. And the language element of AI has just exploded. And so language is really the bedrock of our civilization. >> Anne-Marie: When you say language, what do you mean, Kerry? >> I mean words. I mean things that are written. I mean culture, I mean politics, I mean history or, you know, reinterpretations of history. All of this. And so AI has really kind of pushed, pushing it forward in terms of language. And you know, very quickly as we look at this world around us, we will not know the many things reflected back to us. There have always been aspects of human cultures. That's changing very, very quickly. Because much of what we see including the arts, may be AI generated. >> Anne-Marie: So then what are some of the risks? What are you most concerned about? >> Kerry: So, short-term risks are the obvious like hacking, like we have never seen hacking before. Power concentrated in the hands of a few people with not great intentions, just trying to get rich or to political end, job loss. So I'm sort of blending short and long term

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here. But you know, the biggest one is we don't fully understand what some of the risks would be. Now, you know, the world's not doing that well. We don't get along very well. If you roll it back to five years ago compared to now, we don't. And AI's emerging all over the world so there's competition but there's also military risks now. We're really not getting along with-- Very well you know, when we look at the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, western nations, it's a very difficult time. >> In addition to the letter

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First Mention

. >> Right? So how are these findings already being used by Women's College Hospital to improve the

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