



# International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

*(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)*



Impact Factor: 8.206

Volume 8, Issue 6, June 2025



# Innovations of Metaverse Technology in Healthcare: A Study on Melanoma Skin Cancer

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**ABSTRACT:** The metaverse technologies, consisting of virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and mixed reality (MR) among others, is reshaping medical care in many ways such as boosted patient attention and medication, education for medical practitioners as well as management of illnesses like melanoma skin cancer. This study examines some progressions that metaverse technology has made within public health through such an example as detection and cure of melanoma skin cancer. Early and accurate detection is necessary for improved patient outcomes, given the fact that Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. By 2024, about 100,640 new melanoma cases are predicted to occur in the U. S alone with 8,290 of them resulting into deaths (source: American Cancer Society). Melanoma cases are on the increase in India, with about 3,689 new cases reported annually (International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), 2022). Metaverse technologies provide immersive diagnostic aids that help improve surgical accuracy as well as simulation platforms that aid in healthcare professionals training. This paper aims to offer a comprehensive insight into how these innovations are improving medical care delivery and outcomes by reviewing recent scholarly works, cases, and technological trends. The findings suggest that there is a potential for VR, AR, and MR to transform many areas of medicine such as early detection, patient involvement in their own treatment plans, telemedicine as well as more complicated surgical procedures.

**KEYWORDS:** Metaverse technologies, healthcare, virtual reality, augmented reality, mixed reality, melanoma skin cancer, medical training, patient care

## I. INTRODUCTION

New developments in metaverse technology including, virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and mixed reality (MR) are enhancing healthcare by providing solutions to some of the problems affecting the medical domains of diagnosis, treatment and training. The field that is also gaining from such developments is dermatology. Melanoma is a form of skin cancer that is considered deadly especially if it is diagnosed at a later and advanced stage and it remains to be a global issue with new cases estimated to be at 353,947 and 62,551 deaths projected in year 2025 (World Health Organization, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)). Melanoma is also on the increase in India, in the 2022 the melanoma patients are 3,689 of which 2,197 are dead (International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), 2022). As the estimates show, there will be nearly 100,640 new cases and 8,290 deaths from melanoma in the United States alone in 2024 (American Cancer Society) [1]; this proves the necessity of gradual development of more sophisticated technologies, enabling the improvement of diagnostic accuracy and patient's outcomes.

Related to this, one has identified that metaverse technologies offer different benefits in the healthcare domain due to the user's interaction with the virtual environment. By the same token, VR allows a dermatologist and an oncologist to perform a virtual examination of the skin lesion in a three-dimensional environment, which improves their chances of detecting the signs of melanoma [2]. It is essential to diagnose the disease in its early stage as treatment outcomes and patient's survival rates are considerably enhanced [3].

AR helps dermatologists in the diagnosis of melanoma by combining skin lesion classification through deep learning algorithms with the AR overlay that improves dermatologists' analysis and diagnosis of melanoma within practical application environments. By overlaying the computed parameters and the classification results over real-time skin images [7].





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Furthermore, AR applications placed digital information on top of real sight; round the views of melanoma lesions healthcare providers are able to explain and demonstrate to the patients in real-time. This technology supports decisions of treatment plans and improves patient counselling as the result of showing in an appealing way how diseases and available treatments are related [4].

In addition to diagnostics, metaverse-related technologies are engaged in the treatment itself and in the training of physicians. Through workshops involving participants viewing VR simulations of a surgical operation, we found out that, through VR based surgical simulations, the ability of a surgeon to handle a complex procedure is enhanced [5]. These simulations can help to decrease the number of learning curves and increase the level of patient protection during operations connected with melanoma excisions and reconstructive look [6].

This paper discusses the immense potential of metaverse technologies in the context of future healthcare with the emphasis put on melanoma skin cancer diagnostics, therapy, and education. By extending the information accumulated in the current research, presentations of cases, and practical use of technologies, it is pertinent to offer a broad coverage of how VR, AR, and MR bring changes to the sphere of healthcare and enhance patients' results.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW -STATISTICS

The enhancement of metaverse technology with deep learning for the identification of melanoma skin cancer proves to be at the frontier of medical imaging and computer vision concurrently with an exciting category of immersive computing. This literature review role integrates finding from the recent literature of these domains of study.

#### A. Metaverse in Healthcare

Virtual Reality (VR), Mixed Reality (MR) and Augmented Reality (AR) that falls under the category of metaverse technology have revolutionized the health sector. These technologies include reality-based systems that provide virtual and consequently physical environment for medical practice improving both the educational process and healthcare. Metaverse technologies are transforming the health care sector where patients, doctors, and medical trainees, diseases get better experience through 3-D simulations. By using VR, AR, and MR, healthcare workers can represent the informational flows in patient's cases and conduct trainings and procedures in realistic conditions, thus improving the quality of treatment and the client's satisfaction with the services provided [10].

#### 1. Surgical Training and Simulation

VR and AR have been taken into use with success in surgery as realistic models help the surgeons to deliver perfect and informed decisions while operating. Research has demonstrated that VR applied to surgical procedures can give a positive effect in increasing the technical caliber of surgeons given that necessary techniques can be practiced through the virtual environment without the risk involved in an operative process [19]. Moreover, since applications of AR enable the real-time visual representation of the anatomy structures, such applications are useful to surgeons during severe operations [17].





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to the rural and the marginalized sectors of society [18]. For example, using AR applications, diagnostic information can be placed on top of a patient's body for the assistance of the healthcare provider conducting a remote examination [19].



Fig

### B. Melanoma skin cancer

According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) [38], melanoma remains a significant global health concern. In 2022, the absolute number of new melanoma cases worldwide was 331,722, with 58,667 deaths. These numbers reflect a troubling increase in incidence and mortality, attributed to factors such as heightened UV exposure and improved diagnostic techniques. Looking ahead, IARC projects that by 2025, the number of new melanoma cases will rise to approximately 353,947, with deaths reaching around 62,551. This increase underscores the urgent need for enhanced preventive measures, early detection programs, and advanced treatment options to combat melanoma effectively.

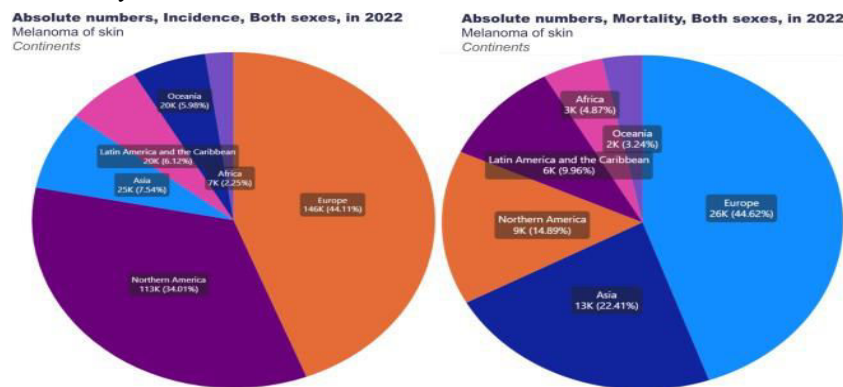
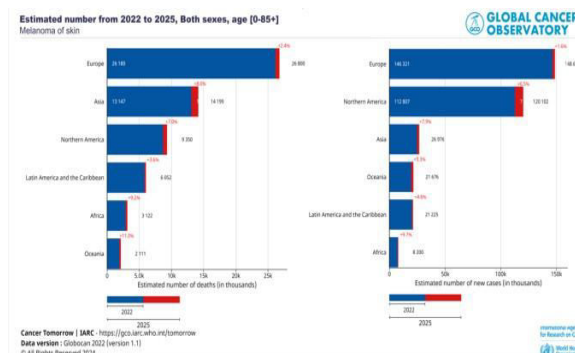


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### 2) Remote Patient Care

The COVID-19 crisis has become a stimulus for the use of telemedicine and distant care strategies. Opportunities have been redeemed by Metaverse technologies which entails virtual consultations and AR derived treatments. These technologies do not only increase patient satisfaction but also empower the healthcare practitioners to reach out  
Fig 2025

### C. Augmented Reality (AR) in Melanoma Detection

AR applications in dermatology include; skin lesion classification through deep learning algorithms that improve the diagnostic proficiency of dermatologists. As diagnostic data can be applied onto real-time images of skin lesions, AR enhances proper diagnosis and treatment planning, which leads to the enhancement of patient's quality of life [7, 11].



Fig

### D. Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality in dermatology

Virtual reality involves the creation of environment, which looks as real as the live once, and this makes it to be very crucial in medical practices such as training and diagnosing. Virtual Reality in dermatology has been used in visualization and examination of skin lesions. Research has found that dermatologist's performance in identifying features that are characteristic of malignant skin lesions can be enhanced with use of the virtual referential aerial view because Lesion realistic, three-dimensional model is created in the process [2]. Besides helping in the timely identification, this capability also assists in the correct diagnosis and management of the condition.

Over, augmented reality (AR) places digital information on real scenes; hence, it promotes the visualization and assessment of medical data within clinical environments. AR applications have been implemented in dermatology with deep learning to distinguish skin lesions and give instant diagnosis assistance to the clinicians [3]. AR also aids in sharing diagnoses on skin lesions and the disease's progression, improving team synergy through joint decision-making and patient satisfaction through visual outcomes [4].

### E. Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR): Didactics in Medical Training

Between VR and AR lies MR, which provides the users with experiences based on interacting with the real and virtual worlds. In medical training, MR simulations have remained very crucial in enhancement of the surgical practices as well as procedural efficiency [12]. For melanoma treatment, MR-based surgical simulations facilitate rehearsal of difficult operations to decrease the risks to patients while increasing the precision of the surgery [5].

### F. Telemedicine and Virtual Consults

It is also noted that the telemedicine also heavily relies on metaverse technologies which include virtual consultations and patients monitoring from a distance. Information derived from the virtual and mixed reality platforms used in telemedicine allows the assessment of skin conditions including melanoma, entails real-time interaction with patients and other telemedicine health providers at the remote site [6]. These technologies counter geographical challenges, increase patient's access to specialized care, and positively affect patient care through timely diagnosis and intervention [13].



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### G. Deep- Learning In Medical Image Analysis

Advanced algorithms are used in deep learning for medical image analysis to automatically detect and diagnose diseases from medical images. Early detection and personalized treatment programs are made easier by reducing interpretation errors and promoting the use of personalized treatment.

#### Convolutional Neural Network

CNNs is category of deep neural networks understood for their efficiency in working with structured grid data specially images. It has found application in skin lesion classification, and has been demonstrated to perform at the level of dermatologists [20]. CNNs have shown in Esteva et al. (2017) that the function to classify skin cancer to be on par with trained dermatologists from images of a large dataset of labelled skin lesions [21].

#### Obstacles Encountered in the Analysis of Medical Images

With these advantages in mind, CNNs' current limitations include class imbalance, a differentiation of image quality, and a scarcity of annotated data. There is class imbalance in the case of malignant lesions which are relatively rare than benign ones, and this increases the chances of developing biased models. To overcome this case, rotation, flipping, colour adjustment and similar techniques are used to increase the amount of training data [22].

### H. Integration of Deep Learning with Metaverse Technology

With the use of metaverse integrated with deep learning, tremendous opportunities for medical image analysis and patient care are created [14].

#### Improved Training and Diagnoses

Hybridizing the VR and AR with deep learning models form more sophisticated training aids in the field of medical occupation. For example, it states that, AR can display the CNN synthesized diagnosis information on a patient's skin to support clinicians' diagnosis and decision-making in real- time [23]. Such integration can also assist in "tele-consultations" whereby clinicians can communicate with 3D renditions of the skin lesions created by the CNNs.

#### Improved Patient Engagement

Applications of metaverse technologies are effective in patient engagement especially through effective e-learning. The research has also found out that through the use of VR, patients can easily grasp their physician's explanation of ailments and proposed therapies, thus enhancing compliance and correspondingly results [24].

#### Patient Education and Engagement

Currently, the most important goal of any medical treatment is patient enrolment through information sharing on their states and possible ways of managing them. It is for this reason that metaverse technologies can come in handy in educating patients with various ailments by offering them experience that are real and can be described as first-hand. For example, one can develop educational VR modules concerning melanoma, its indicators, and early diagnosis significance. Through these modules patients have the option of proceeding at their own pace thus increasing their knowledge and participation of their medical process [24].

## III. METAVERSE IN HEALTHCARE

### A. Medical Training and Education

Metaverse technologies in the field of medicine improve medical practitioners training and offer practical simulations of numerous procedures without actual risks. Surgical simulations that involve the use of VR has been proven to be very helpful in implications of mastery and performance [2]. Remote training sessions make the training more convenient to persons in the fields of medicine [12].

#### Causes of Melanoma

Ultraviolet radiation that is emitted from exposure to the sun or tanning beds is the main cause of melanoma. Excessive exposure to UV rays can irreversibly alter the skin cell DNA and produce an abnormal cell which can form a cancerous tumor. Other risk factors include being of a lighter skin colour, a history of sunburn, exposure to the UV light, increasing number of moles, history of melanoma in the family and certain gene traits [2][12].





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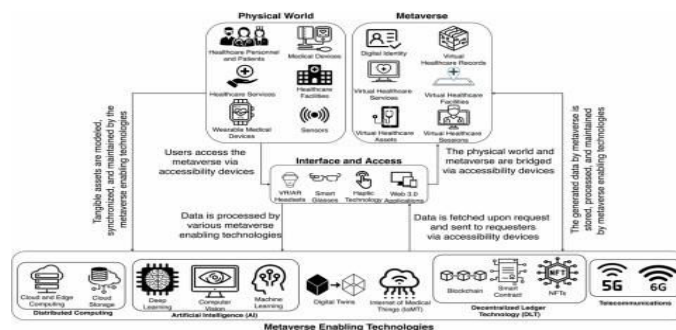
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### B. Impacts and Effects of Melanoma

#### Local Effects:

**Skin Changes:** Melanoma presents itself in form of a new mole or changes of size, shape, or colour in an already existing mole. This may develop as a skin change to be itchy, tender, or bleed[9].

**Ulceration:** Melanoma in its later stage causes the skin to ulcerate resulting to formation of non healing sores [4].



Fig

#### A. Telemedicine and Remote Consultations

Telemedicine gains from the use of metaverse technologies since it involves virtual consultation, remote diagnosis, monitoring, and planning for treatment. Virtual reality platforms improve on the ability of remote consultation, hence getting professional advice even when the consultant and client are in different locations [9]. Essential wearable devices that connect to metaverse enable real-time monitoring of patient's health status [1].

#### Patient Rehabilitation and Therapy

Virtual reality therapies help in physical and cognitive resectioning through gaming which is bespoke to the patient's requirements. Researches have demonstrated its application in stroke rehabilitation [5] and exposure therapy for anxiety and PTSD [13].

#### B. Enhanced Patient Engagement and Education Metaverse technologies increase the level of patient's

interaction as it presents the data or operations which are difficult to understand in a better and comprehensible manner. The applications of AR and VR deliver knowledge regarding the prevention and management of diseases and occurrence of lifestyle changes [14][3].

#### C. Remote Surgical Assistance

Use of remote operations in the metaverse is improved whereby surgeons cannot physically be in the same location but can assist each other in surgeries [37]. Integration of artificial intelligence enhances the diagnostic proficiency and treatment suggestions [19][21].

### MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

#### A. What is Melanoma?

Melanoma is a dangerous form of skin cancer that develops in the melanocytes also known as the skin colour producing cells. Decision about appropriate method of the excision of the skin lesion depends on the type of skin cancer. Melanoma can be relatively more aggressive and if not diagnosed early can metastasize to other organs [16]. Pain: At a later stage, melanoma makes the localized area weak and also can produce pain at the affected region [5].

#### Systemic Effects:

- i. **Metastasis:** If not detected in the preliminary stage, melanoma has the tendency to metastasize in the lymph nodes, lungs, liver, brain, bones and other essential parts of the body and this will result to other signs depending on the location of the metastasis [13][14].
- ii. **Organ Dysfunction:** This melanoma can stop the organs from functioning effectively because of the invasiveness of the disease. Thus, for example, melanoma, located in the lungs, can lead to shortness of breath, and melanoma of the liver fails the latter [3].
- iii. **Neurological Symptoms:** The neurological symptoms that result from melanoma spreading to the brain are headache,



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seizures, neurological complications like weakness or changes in vision [7].

### General Effects:

- i. Fatigue: Cancer and its mutually exclusive treatments have been reported to cause tiredness [3].
- ii. Weight Loss: Thus, unintentional weight loss may be as a result of the impact of the disease on the body [19].
- iii. Immune System Suppression: Melanoma at its later stages affects the immunity of an individual and thus the body becomes prone to infection [21].

## IV. COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL METHODS AND METAVERSE TECHNOLOGIES IN MELANOMA SKIN CANCER MANAGEMENT

### A. Monitoring and Detection

Conventional follow-up of melanoma entails routine assessments of survivor's status through clinical examination and skin surveillance for signs of recurrence or multiple primary melanomas [4]. Medical charts and treatment logs are generally kept on paper, in small-scale EHR systems, which cannot always be shared between the involved medical organizations. Metaverse technologies improve this aspect by employing wearable gadgets associated with the metaverse platforms to constantly monitor changes in the skin conditions that might need the attention of healthcare providers [25]. They are also capable of aggregating data from multiple sources into a single unified system ensuring that all departments have updated records of the patient's health information [8]. Image analysis with the help of artificial intelligence and machine learning aided in the various metaverse platforms precisely detect and help to provide early diagnosis of the diseases [21].

### B. Training for Practitioners

Conventional MTCP includes book learning, demonstration on mannequins or dead bodies, and then interaction with patients. However, there are its drawbacks associated with practical possibilities of the trainee's work and the number of actual situations. Training: Metaverse Technologies: The use of metaverse technologies transforms training by creating an environment in which the learners make practice diagnoses and treatment of melanoma over and over again under different settings enhancing the practitioner's competence and confidence but not at a cost of the patient's lives [26]. These simulations can be implemented to portray unique situation or depicting the adverse effect showing different qualifications to the practitioners [27].

### C. Telemedicine

Telemedicine is now widely used to increase the reach of primary care, although original models of telemedicine employ video or voice conversations and simple IT applications. Metaverse technology improves telemedicine by developing virtual clinics where the interaction of a patient and a doctor will be more natural [28]. Virtual skin examination can be done with the help of detailed three-dimensional models of a patient's skin, and doctors can communicate with other specialists in real-time, enhancing diagnostic acuity and planning treatment strategies [29].

By the use of metaverse, patients with complicated diseases have telecommunication opportunities with professors in various parts of the world, and can get an expert advice, which is convenient for patients who locate in remote areas or areas with low medical professional density [12]. AR can also be applied to convey information about the patient's condition and treatment in an improved and engaging manner, increasing the likelihood of adherence to the information [7].

## V. IMPORTANCE OF METAVERSE IN MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

### A. Enhanced Detection and Diagnosis

It is pertinent to acknowledge that the metaverse has enhanced the manner of identifying and diagnosing melanoma skin cancer through imaging and analysing through AI. In conventional approaches, examination and biopsies are major procedures, which are highly dependent on the opinion of a doctor and consume a lot of time [1]. Metaverse technologies enhance the leucoplakia or skin lesion aspect using AR and VR scanning as per the ABCDE rule (Asymmetry, Border, Colour, Diameter, Evolving), where the specifically required border along with the other important details on the lesion are highlighted in real-time. This is specifically true since augmented images can be analysed by AI algorithms to accurately see patterns/abnormalities that would otherwise take humans longer and more reliably to detect with precision [21]. This integration of technology also helps in speeding up the detection process and an added bonus is that there is minimal room for error this is in contrast to older methods.





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### B. Enhanced Training for the Practitioners

Education and training regarding melanoma diagnosis and treatment has in the past involved the physical exercise on actual subjects or mannequins, which are scarce or unethical [3]. In certain countries such as India the frequency of melanoma is not very high hence the doctors may not be very acquainted with the disease. It provides unique opportunities for competing in a Virtual Reality environment, where all sorts of clinical situations are modelled to provide the best practice without compromising patient's life. The kind of melanoma lesions that can be modelled include the basic, the early and the advanced levels and the rare and complex types, which are a good simulation for real life type of scenarios to the doctors [30]. Also, the practitioners from different states can attend different virtual classes with international specialists which will improve their knowledge and experience.

### C. Telemedicine And Remote Consultations

Telemedicine is expanded with the help of the metaverse due to the creation of virtual worlds for patients and doctors. Telemedicine is most often based on videophones, which are not always adequate in regards to examination possibilities [31]. It is for instance possible to virtually perform skin check-ups on patients using high resolution actual 3D models of their lesions in the metaverse. Real time modifications to these models allow dermatologists to have a better understanding of the lesion's properties without physically interacting with the patient [32]. This is especially advantageous to patients who physically are not strong or mobility challenged due to the effects of melanoma; it offers a greater advantage over conventional remote consultancy.

### D. Ongoing Monitoring and Follow-up

Long-term surveillance for melanoma patients is crucial to identify any signs of relapse or new lesions. Traditionally, follow-up is done through home visits, which may be strenuous for the patient and may worsen their conditions due to the nature of the disease [33]. Metaverse technologies enable constant surveillance by wearing gadgets that are integrated with virtual environments. These devices can monitor variations in skin status and inform the patient as well as the doctor of any shifts that warrant a change in treatment [34]. This preventive approach helps avoid delays, may have better outcomes, and take a lesser toll on facilities, making it a better, patient-centric approach compared to regular monitoring.

### E. Patient Education and Engagement

The management and compliance to treatment regimen of patients with melanoma entails the provision of proper patient education. Conventional educational techniques include the use of pamphlets, websites, and personal consultations that may not be effective in reaching out to all the patients [35]. The use of a metaverse platform is highly effective in teaching patients due to the level of interactivity provided. Potential users can interactively view potential dermatological diseases that they may develop, comprehend the consequences of different treatments, and see the potential results. Such an approach makes the disease and its possible treatments more understandable for patients, thus enhancing decision-making on their health [36]. This method has improved patient understanding as compared to the conventional educational models.

## VI. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

AI and deep learning will be integrated into metaverse technologies for treating melanoma skin cancer in the future to improve early detection and diagnostic accuracy. Cutting-edge virtual training settings will give medical practitioners lifelike simulations, enhancing their abilities through international cooperation. Personalized telemedicine solutions will use AI and sophisticated analytics to provide proactive management and ongoing monitoring, customizing medical advice and treatment plans for each patient. This will allow patients in underprivileged locations to consult with foreign experts, democratizing access to specialized melanoma care globally. Early intervention will be made easier by wearable technology that is coupled with metaverse platforms to enable real-time skin health monitoring. Virtual support groups and interactive instructional resources will also empower patients by increasing their comprehension of the disease and level of participation in their care, which will improve results.

## VII. CONCLUSION

The integration of metaverse technologies into healthcare, particularly in the domain of melanoma skin cancer detection and treatment, offers significant advancements in medical diagnostics, training, and patient care. These technologies provide immersive and interactive environments that enhance early detection, improve surgical precision,



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and offer robust training simulations for healthcare professionals. By leveraging the capabilities of VR, AR, and MR, healthcare delivery is revolutionized, leading to better patient outcomes and more effective disease management. The transformative potential of metaverse technologies in healthcare underscores their importance in addressing complex medical challenges and improving the overall quality of care.

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