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### **Educating Health Professionals in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What Will We Need Humans For?**

Everywhere we look, dramatic shifts in technology are changing the way we conduct our lives. Banking and buying are on line. We enter a concert, a movie or board a flight with a barcoded piece of paper printed at home. Inside our clinics and operating rooms, robotics and systems that employ artificial intelligence are augmenting, and in some cases will one day replace, the work of human health professionals. The word often used to describe this changing landscape is “disruption”.

Despite this, health professions education is proving very slow in preparing for the changes ahead. Though ripe for their own disruption, education models seem oddly resistant to change. Yet our students will be practicing in 2050 and need an education that will prepare them for this rapidly changing context. Equally important, healthcare professionals in practice today need help to prepare for what will be a very different workplace. Professional scopes of practice are going to change significantly and some professions may be reconfigured or made obsolete. It is time to take a hard look at what aspects of health care should remain firmly in the heads, hands and hearts of human health professionals.