Technology advances quickly and its implications affect the world in unexpected ways. One study in particular highlights an element of this unexpected fallout, focusing on how the hobbies of medical students prior to their training impact their future in the career field. Some hobbies such as woodworking or sewing help develop fine motor skills, however with a decline in the popularity of these hobbies due to the advancement of technology, Medical schools are noticing a decline in students dexterity to be applied to their profession (Murphy, 2019).

Unfortunately, like other detriments to society due to technological advancement, this could never have been predicted or prepared for. Dr. Roger Kneebone, professor of surgical education at Imperial College London, compares the development of these fine motor skills to that of verbal language, saying he thinks, “it’s easier to acquire when you are young, it's much more difficult to get when you're twenty-four, twenty-five, or twenty-six” (Murphy, 2019). By the time this trend has been recognized, it is far too late for Medical students to go back and spend the years they needed to develop their fine motor skills.

Due to the Medical students lack of physical skills compared to students in the past, practicing surgeries will be more important than ever to enable patients to have shorter hospital stays, suffer fewer complications and, most importantly, survive (Murphy, 2019). The use of screens and buttons when growing up does not prepare medical students for intricate work with their hands during surgeries, and without these skills of hand-eye coordination, steadiness, etc., the surgery is more challenging for these students and therefore more dangerous for the patient. Luckily for these students, the same technology that hurt their physical development of necessary
skills, can be used to help them. As highlighted in the article, “while surgery used to require cutting the patient open, advances in technology have created more minimally invasive procedures…” (Murphy, 2019). While it can be disappointing to see that technology has in myriad ways forced us to depend upon it, as a society it can be appreciated that there are new solutions to help problems that would have been fatal in history.

This article shows that, as can be seen in many professions, there is a certain level of **abdication of responsibility** to technology in the medical field based out of necessity (Potasznik, 2019). In other words, responsibility has been surrendered to technology with skills that were expected in the past disappearing from upcoming students. This leads the entire field to either search out students with the necessary fine motor skills, and/or substitute this lack of motor accuracy with computers that can be programmed for sensitivity and skill. These computers would not experience fatigue, and additionally, with fast approaching AI, Quantum Computer machine learning, and more, the risks associated with surgery could be lowered dramatically. The New York Times article extends to inform the reader that, “at least 30 percent to 50 percent of complications from surgical procedures are potentially avoidable”, leading to the consideration that perhaps medical students need to be judged on not only their intellectual capacity, but also their dexterity and the accuracy of their motor skills (Murphy, 2019). This is not a simple problem to solve, though. Is it truly a good idea to depend on technology to learn medicine, or was technology what caused the problem in the first place?
Works Cited


