Closing Panel & Call to Action

Jiajie Zhang, Ph.D., UTHealth Houston (Moderator)

Claus Jensen, Ph.D., UT Austin, Dell Medical School
David Jaffray, Ph.D., UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Peter McCaffrey, M.D. University of Texas Medical Branch
Xiaoqian Jiang, Ph.D., UTHealth Houston
Yang Xie, Ph.D., UT Southwestern

Developing a UT System-Wide Strategic Plan for AI in Healthcare

- Texas is the 8ᵗʰ biggest economy in the world, bigger than Russia and Canada

- UT System produces 63% of the state's medical degrees

- 7 health institutions and medical schools

UTHealth Houston launches new AI Task Force

David Fanucchi • May 07, 2025

Graphic by UTHealth Houston (Photo by Getty Images)

A new Artificial Intelligence Task Force is being formed at UTHealth Houston with the aim of developing a comprehensive, enterprise-wide strategy for AI integration across the university's education, research, clinical care, and operations.

Strategic Objectives

- Articulating a compelling institutional vision for artificial intelligence.

- Conducting a rigorous assessment of current AI capabilities, resources, and organizational gaps.

- Defining strategic priorities to guide AI integration across mission-critical domains.

- Recommending targeted, high-impact initiatives to accelerate institutional progress.

- Establishing governance, ethical, and compliance frameworks to ensure responsible AI deployment.

- Enabling cross-institutional collaboration across schools, clinical entities, and operational units to unlock system-wide value.

President						
University Executive Council						
AI Task Force Steering Committee **Chair**: Jiajie Zhang **Members**: Chairs and Co-Chairs of Subcommittees **Management Team**: Amy Franklin, Judy Young, Yukiko Bryson **Legal Advisor**: William McElhiney						
Research	**Education**	**Patient Care**	**Technology and Implementation**	**Data Platform**	**Governance and Policy**	**Partnerships**
Chair: Xiaoqian Jiang Hongfang Liu Hulin Wu	**Chair:** Susan Fenton	**Chair:** Martin Citardi Sean Savitz	**Chair:** Xiaoqian Jiang Martin Citardi Dustan Brennan	**Chair:** Elmer Bernstam Bassel Choucair GQ Zhang	**Chair:** Amar Yousif Kevin Dillon	**Chair:** Babatope Fatuyi
12 members	17 members	11 members	11 members	5 members	8 members	5 members

Six Months, Four Phases

Phase 1: Strategic Landscape Assessment (Month 1–2)

Phase 2: Strategy and Policy Architecture (Month 3–4)

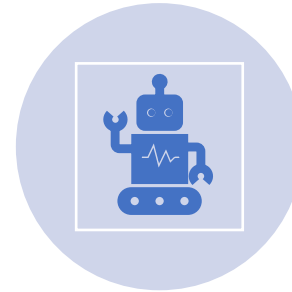Phase 3: Alignment and Ecosystem Engagement (Month 5)

Phase 4: Finalization and Strategic Rollout (Month 6)

Core Deliverables

A Comprehensive Institutional AI Strategy, articulating the vision, priorities, and path forward.

Subcommittee Strategic Reports, detailing insights and recommendations across seven core domains.

A robust AI Governance and Compliance Framework, addressing data ethics, security, risk, and regulatory alignment.

A Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan, designed to support internal alignment and external positioning.

Questions

- If we were to develop a UT System-wide strategic plan for AI in healthcare, what each institution can contribute to the seven core areas:
    - Research
    - Education
    - Patient care
    - Technology and implementation
    - Data platforms
    - Governance and Policy
    - Partnership
- What do we need from the system