WHATSUP

Renowned healthcare expert Dr Rupak Barua, MD and CEO, Woodlands Hospital, ignited a thought-provoking discussion on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) for sustainable hospital management. He was speaking at Conversation 360, organized by Caring Minds International and Calcutta Management Association on July 27.

Addressing an audience of medical professionals, Barua painted a comprehensive picture of the Indian healthcare landscape, highlighting its potential for growth while acknowledging the persistent challenges. He emphasised the pivotal role of AI in addressing these challenges and revolutionising patient care. He further delved into the myriad applications of AI in healthcare, ranging from predictive analytics to surgical robotics. He underscored the technology's potential to optimise resource allocation, enhance patient outcomes, and accelerate drug discovery. However, Barua also cautioned about the associated challenges, such as data privacy, infrastructure, and the need for skilled professionals.

The event concluded with a general consensus on AI's immense potential to reshape the healthcare industry. Barua's insights offered valuable perspectives on the opportunities and challenges ahead, inspiring the audience to explore the possibilities of harnessing AI for a healthier future.

Bornona Barik (t2 intern)
Pictures: Pabitra Das

CONVERSATION 360 WITH DR RUPAK BARUA AT CARING MINDS DELVED INTO AI INTEGRATION IN HEALTHCARE

Dr Rupak Barua, MD and CEO, Woodlands Hospital

"Caring Minds International (Institute of Mental Health & OPD Clinic) is happy to be hosting Conversation 360 with Calcutta Management Association. Till 2020, Patton used to hold successful monthly talks called Talkshoppe. We have revived this meeting of minds in 2024 as part of our outreach and awareness initiatives. With eminent thought leaders, changemakers, and visionaries as expert speakers, we look forward to showcasing unique topics during these evenings of impact," said Dr Minu Budhia (right), founder of Caring Minds International.

At a Q&A session Dr Rupak Barua addressed pressing concerns about AI's impact on the medical profession.

1 **Can AI diagnose human DNA?**
"Research is ongoing in this area. AI has the potential to analyse complex biological data, including DNA, but it's still under development."

2. **Can doctors be replaced by AI?**
"While AI can assist with many tasks, it cannot replace the human judgment and empathy of doctors. The future likely involves a collaborative approach, with AI supporting healthcare professionals."

3. **Why is private healthcare so expensive?**
"A significant portion of healthcare costs is attributed to human resources. AI can streamline operations and reduce manpower needs. However, it increases the expenses. Additionally, AI-driven innovations can improve efficiency and patient outcomes, but advanced technology will be costlier."