

Press Report

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University), organised the *Summit on Outcomes* of the SPARC Project P2595 titled “Legal and Ethical Framework for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Healthcare Sector with Special Reference to Patient Safety” on 19 February 2026 in Hybrid Mode at the SLS Conference Hall. The Summit, conducted from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM IST (10:30 AM to 1:00 PM CET), brought together eminent scholars, medical professionals, and legal experts from India, Sweden, and Italy to deliberate upon the ethical, legal, and regulatory dimensions of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare.

The programme commenced with the Introductory Address by Ms. Anushka Sahu, PhD Scholar, SLS Pune, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries on the dais. The welcome address and opening remarks were delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar; Director, SLS Pune; Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU; Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUCLAMP); and Principal Investigator of the SPARC Project. Dr. Gurpur traced the journey of the SPARC Project, highlighting its interdisciplinary and transnational collaboration with Stockholm University and the University of Milan. She presented the key outcomes of the project, including a comprehensive monograph, book chapters, a training manual, survey-based empirical findings, and the development of an interdisciplinary curriculum framework. She also announced forthcoming initiatives, including a transnational online certification programme on AI governance in healthcare.

Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar, Provost of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, delivered the Inaugural Address, underscoring the transformative potential of AI in improving healthcare delivery while cautioning against unchecked technological optimism. He stressed that accessibility, affordability, and availability must remain central to technological innovation and that patient welfare should guide regulatory design.

The Summit featured expert presentations based on the project’s monograph and curriculum piloting. In her session on “Patient Safety and the Deployment of AI in Healthcare – Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) Framework,” Dr. Gurpur elaborated on the ELSI framework, analysing AI technologies through ethical, legal, and social lenses. She emphasised anticipatory governance, risk assessment, algorithmic accountability, and the need to balance innovation with patient safety.

Dr. Henricus Verhagen, Professor at the Department of Computer and Systems Sciences, Stockholm University, and International Co-Principal Investigator, presented on the current status of AI in healthcare. He outlined the expanding global AI healthcare market and discussed applications such as predictive analytics, robotic surgery, diagnostics, and personalised medicine. He also addressed challenges relating to data privacy, bias, and the indispensable role of human oversight in AI-assisted decision-making.

Dr. Jitender Sodhi, Associate Professor, Department of Hospital Administration, AIIMS New Delhi, spoke on the potential of AI in enhancing accessibility, affordability, and adaptability of healthcare systems. He underlined AI’s capacity to improve triaging, patient transport, monitoring of non-clinical practices such as hand hygiene, and optimisation of hospital logistics, particularly in large public sector institutions.

Prof. Dr. Arun Jamkar, renowned surgeon and former Vice Chancellor of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS), addressed “Patient Safety and Rights of Patients in the Age of AI.” He stressed the urgent need for robust regulatory frameworks to govern AI deployment in medicine, highlighting concerns relating to algorithmic bias, data security, accountability gaps, and medico-legal liability. He argued that ethical guidelines alone are insufficient and must be complemented by enforceable regulatory mechanisms.

The post-tea technical sessions focused on international regulatory developments. Dr. Angelica Bonfanti, Associate Professor at the University of Milan and International Co-PI, presented on the World Health Organization’s guidance documents on AI in healthcare (2021–2024), emphasising the human rights-based approach, transparency, accountability, and multi-stakeholder oversight in AI governance.

Dr. Chiara Ragni, Professor of International Law at the University of Milan, examined the ethical dimensions of AI and human rights. She highlighted the interpretative strength of human rights law in operationalising ethical principles such as privacy, non-discrimination, autonomy, and self-determination, particularly where ethical norms lack enforceability.

The comparative regulatory dimension was further explored by Dr. Claes Granmar, Associate Professor at Stockholm University and International PI of the SPARC Project, who discussed the European Union’s legal framework for AI-driven medical devices, including the AI Act, sector-specific regulations, regulatory sandboxes, and the role of notified bodies in continuous compliance monitoring.

An overview of India’s legal and regulatory framework for AI deployment in healthcare was presented by Dr. Rupal Rautdesai, Dr. Raj Varma, and Dr. Atmaram Shelke of SLS Pune. The presentation identified regulatory gaps, evolving policy initiatives such as the recently introduced national frameworks on responsible AI, and the need for harmonisation with global standards. The Summit also featured practitioner-oriented insights through case studies and best practices presented by Dr. Amol Sapatnekar, Ms. Sahiti Vojjala, and Ms. Anushka Sahu. A critical reflection segment included a screening of the investigative video “Strokes, Punctured Skull,” highlighting real-world harms associated with AI-enabled medical devices and reinforcing the urgency of regulatory vigilance.

The Summit witnessed participation from over 200 registered attendees from India, Sweden, and Italy. The diverse representation from the fields of law, medicine, public health, technology, and governance reflected the interdisciplinary and international relevance of the SPARC Project’s outcomes and underscored the growing urgency of establishing a coherent legal and ethical framework for AI in healthcare. The event concluded with Concluding Remarks by Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, reiterating the need for sustained interdisciplinary dialogue and adaptive governance models, followed by a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, Deputy Director, SLS Pune.



Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar; Director, SLS Pune; Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU; Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUCLAMP), Dr. Claes Granmar, Associate Professor at Stockholm University, and Prof. Dr. Arun Jamkar, former Vice Chancellor of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS), inaugurating the Summit on Outcome



Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar; Director, SLS Pune; Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, PI SPARC Project, Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUCLAMP), delivering welcome address and opening remarks



The event witnessed an impressive turnout of over 250 participants, joining both in person and through virtual mode from India, Sweden, Italy, and Saudi Arabia, fostering discussions and collaborative engagement