
Abstract: Labroots Clinical Diagnostic and Research Virtual Meeting, Nov 2–3, 2016

Markovic N. Point-of-Care's past, present and future: A road to equal health care for all

The main goal of medicine is to postpone the inevitable death. Medical schools teach students knowledge and skills to improve their abilities to fulfill this goal. Unfortunately, the best knowledge could hardly reach those who much need them – the patients in needs most of them in low–middle income countries in the world.

There are many reasons for it, some objective, but many subjective.

How to improve this situation? Medicine is not a guessing game. People's lives cannot depend on the competency of the healthcare provider and his "best" judgment.

Medicine is a science based on facts, (robust not surrogate endpoints), true interpretation of facts, and the best possible clinical action according to the facts. This is frequently forgotten.

IT technology or Telemedicine could make substantial difference. They can connect POC with Medical Centers, the medical information would be exchanged in minutes, and the POC provider may receive expert opinion on what is his/her challenge and what to do in few hours if not minutes. But, how to achieve this?

Covering the territory with wireless system, empowering POC with low cost medical information producing equipment (including microscopes, digital camera, and small clinical pathology labs), and developing networking services on membership or fee for service basis.

The essential elements are: Medical Diagnostic Protocol Systems for fast, accurate and low cost diagnosis, and APP as commercially available guidelines for certain diseases or medical issues.