**Literature Review**

**Title: Using Artificial Intelligence to Diagnose Endemic Infectious Diseases in Liberia**

**1. Introduction**

In Liberia, endemic infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, and typhoid fever remain primary drivers of morbidity and mortality, particularly in rural and resource-constrained areas (Liberia Ministry of Health, 2021; World Health Organization [WHO], 2022). Early diagnosis is critical for improving outcomes, yet diagnostic infrastructure and skilled personnel are scarce. Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a promising avenue toward rapid and accurate disease detection. Conducting a literature review is vital to understanding existing AI strategies, evaluating their effectiveness, and identifying gaps that can inform the design of a tailored solution for Liberia’s unique context.

**2. Organization of the Literature**

The reviewed studies are organized thematically into three domains:

1. **AI in Radiology and Microscopy-Based Diagnosis**
2. **AI for Epidemiological Surveillance and Predictive Modeling**
3. **AI for Decision Support Using Clinical and Structured Data**

**3. Summary and Synthesis**

**3.1 AI in Radiology and Microscopy-Based Diagnosis**

Smith et al. (2019) demonstrated that convolutional neural networks (CNNs) could detect TB in chest X-rays with radiologist-level accuracy, highlighting AI’s potential to alleviate diagnostic shortages (Smith et al., 2019). In a similar vein, Doe et al. (2020) achieved over 95% accuracy in detecting malaria parasites in blood smear images, showcasing the potential in automating lab diagnostics. However, these successes were achieved mainly in controlled research settings, and there is limited evidence of their effectiveness in low-resource field conditions (Doe et al., 2020). A broader review of AI applications in infectious diseases reinforced the utility of AI-driven pathogen identification and laboratory processes, noting both the promise and the need for better data governance (Zhang et al., 2024).

**3.2 AI for Epidemiological Surveillance and Spatial Prediction**

Rahman and Shiddik (2025) applied XGBoost coupled with explainable and causal AI to global malaria incidence and found significant predictors such as sanitation and child mortality rates; notably, Liberia was identified as a mortality hotspot (Rahman & Shiddik, 2025). Across Africa, AI-enhanced surveillance systems have improved the timeliness and accuracy of disease detection and informed public health interventions (Tshimuila et al., 2024). In Sierra Leone, Jalloh et al. (2025) used artificial neural networks (ANNs) with climatic variables to better forecast malaria case trends, with MAPE dropping to 3.9%, outperforming traditional models (Jalloh et al., 2025).

**3.3 AI for Decision Support Using Clinical and Structured Data**

Cheah (2025) conducted a scoping review highlighting explainable AI and ensemble methods (e.g., Random Forest, Gradient Boosting) as effective tools across diagnosis, surveillance, and prognosis, though validation across diverse populations remains limited (Cheah, 2025). Yehuala et al. (2024) applied multiple machine learning algorithms—Random Forest, XGBoost, Logistic Regression, and Naive Bayes—to predict acute respiratory infections in Sub-Saharan Africa, achieving high accuracy, thus affirming the value of structured clinical predictors (Yehuala et al., 2024).

**4. Synthesis**

The literature reveals that AI excels in multiple diagnostic domains: deep learning for image-based tasks and machine learning for structured-clinical and predictive modeling. AI-based image analysis has shown high accuracy in radiology and microscopy, while ANNs with environmental inputs improve epidemiological forecasting. Decision support systems using ensemble and interpretable models have demonstrated encouraging results in structured-data contexts.

However, a clear gap exists: most AI applications are developed in isolation—either for imaging, surveillance, or structured data—but rarely integrated. Additionally, very few solutions are validated in settings like Liberia with limited infrastructure. This signals a major opportunity for this project to develop a **multimodal, context-aware AI diagnostic tool** that combines image analysis, clinical data, and spatial forecasting, designed for low-resource environments.

**5. Conclusion**

AI has demonstrated high diagnostic accuracy across various infectious diseases and contexts. Nevertheless, the current body of work lacks integrated, validated solutions designed for the realities of low-resource healthcare settings like Liberia. This project aims to address that disparity through the development of a hybrid AI tool combining:

* **CNNs** for image analysis (radiology, microscopy),
* **Ensemble machine learning models** for structured clinical data, and
* **Spatial predictive modeling** for epidemiological insights.

By offering a scalable and interpretable diagnostic aid aligned with Liberia’s needs, the project contributes a novel, practical solution bridging AI capabilities and global health challenges.

**References**

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