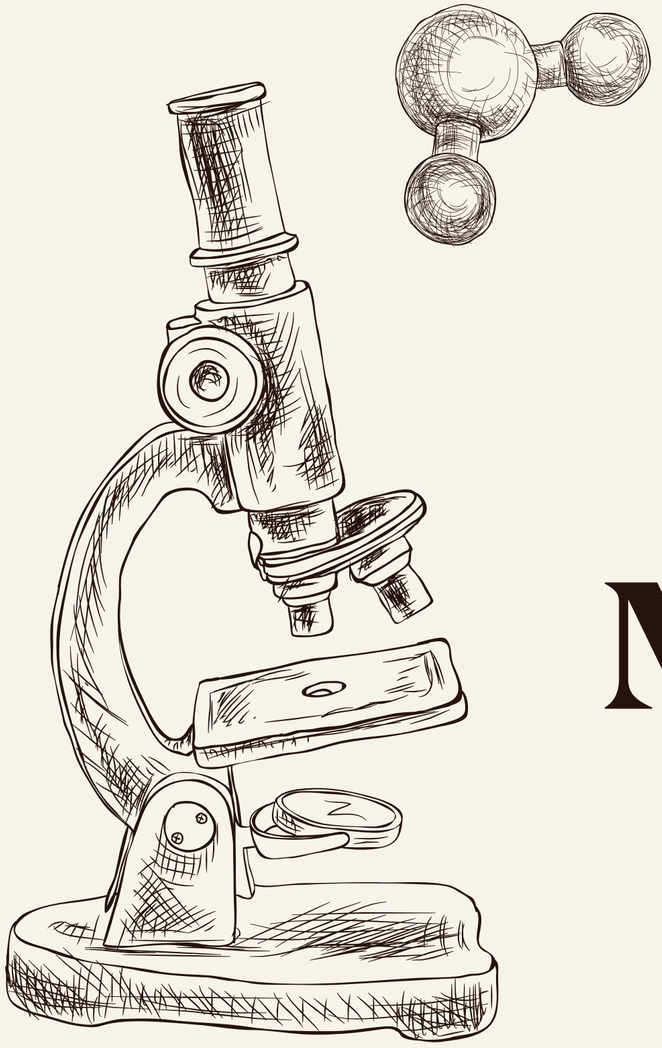
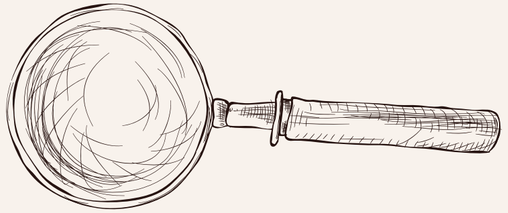
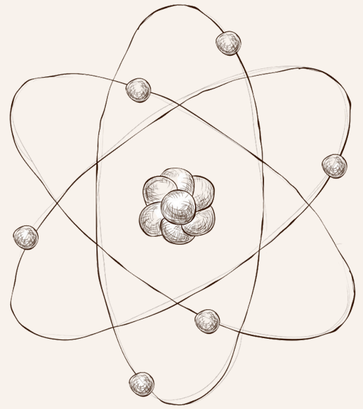
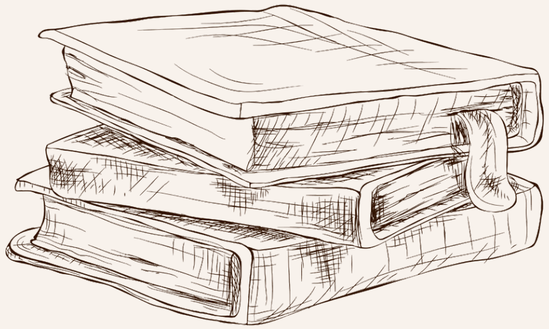








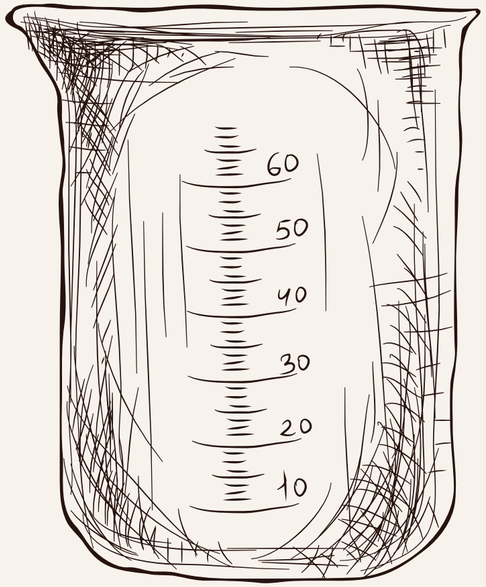
The potential use of

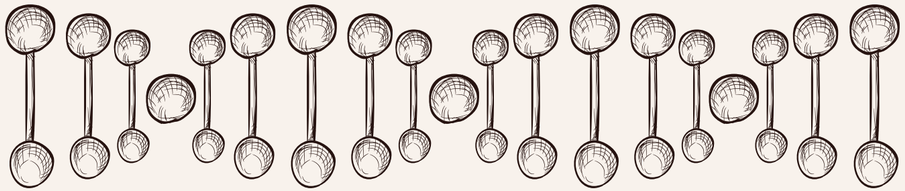
AI IN MEDICINE

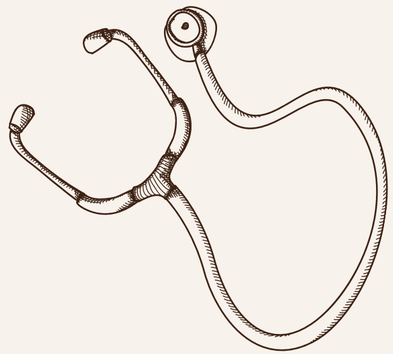
Warning: the following slides contain pictures of skin disease

The AI Doctor

For the past couple years now there has been some talk about the possibility of using Artificial Intelligence in the medical industry. Some think that AI could be used to diagnose illnesses. But is that truly a good idea especially when most studies and medical books tend to focus on white men as a reference.



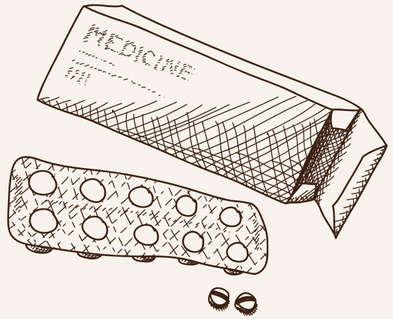




Light vs Dark skin

01 On lighter skin hives usually presents as “inflamed pink or red-colored patches of skin.”

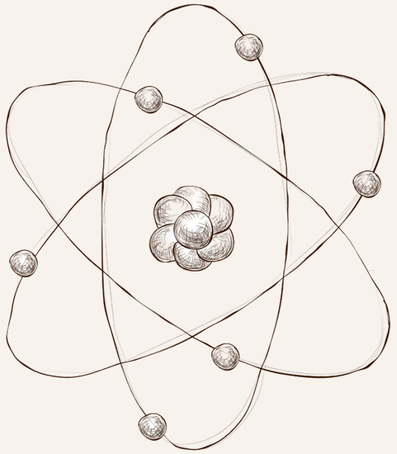
02 On darker skin tho it Usually shows singns of irritation, the skin dosent always appear as red or pink.



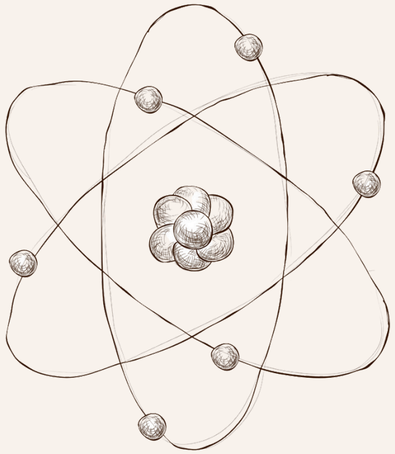
Light vs Dark skin

01

“On white skin, psoriasis usually appears as pink or red patches with silvery-white scales. On black skin, psoriasis appears more as purple patches with gray scales. The patches can also appear as a dark brown color.”



the TAKE AWAY



The problem is that AI will probably have a harder time diagnosing people of colour and women then white men. There is at the moment a huge lack of illustration of diseases on dark skin in the medical world. In the case of hives for example there was a study that showed that only about 57% of medical students could diagnose hives on dark skin (Seladi-Schulman). If doctors are already having trouble diagnosing fairly common disease due to the lack of images how do we expect AI to diagnose it?