

EDITORIAL

What is your intelligence type?

Who of you have done a test to find out your IQ score? And how many of you have perhaps felt quite satisfied about having achieved a high score, maybe even above average?

The enthusiasm for IQ tests started during the First World War, when two million USA citizens were classified using the first-ever version of the test proposed by Lewis Terman, a Stanford psychologist. That was the birth of the IQ mentality, based on the belief that people could be classified as smart or not so smart, according to their short-term memory, reasoning, and word skills.

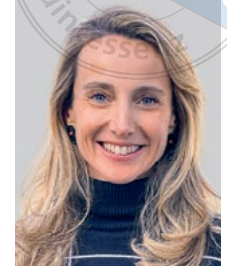
But, for how long will the most gifted human beings be able to actually compete with the new artificial intelligence (AI)?

I must admit that I could not resist the ChatGPT mania. Although this instrument is still at an embryonic level, in a developmental stage, its potential is mind-blowing.

I found myself playing with the chatbot, asking the most absurd questions that entered my mind in a sort of silly challenge with the intelligence machine – it won in the end. It was able to write a paper about environmental pollution for my daughter, to produce an up-to-date and precise summary about the state of the art on periodontal plastic surgery, and to create an articulate dissertation about the evolution of esthetic perception. Soon enough, I will be able to ask it to write the editorial for this journal on my behalf and in seconds it will be capable of producing it with the required number of words. It will be able to prepare any type of PowerPoint or Keynote presentation on any assigned subject. It will be capable of writing a scientific paper and of executing precise systematic reviews. And, what about the clinical aspect? How long will it take for it to be in a position to carry out all sorts of clinical diagnoses faster and with more precision than us? And the robots equipped with AI – how long will it take for them to become more efficient than us in preparing an abutment or placing an implant?

We are, for sure, experiencing an epic turning point in history, and as with all great innovations, I feel both fascinated and terrified at the same time.

How will the entire education system change? The scientific world? What will make a researcher better than the chatbot? What will a speaker have to say at a congress that could be more interesting than what AI



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Why an octopus arm on the cover?

Octopuses have eight arms, the surface of which has a structure that, unlike the fine hairs of a gecko, sticks even when wet. Researchers examined the suction cups and found tiny protrusions in the small cup-shaped hollows. Thanks to this microstructure, octopuses can cling to slippery rocks under water or grab their prey. Materials researchers have now copied the adhesive material of octopuses. The newly developed material adheres well to moist skin and is said to be suitable, for example, for novel wound plasters.

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can offer? What will be the role of doctors and dentists in the diagnostic process? For how long will our manual art as dentists be safeguarded from being replicated in a faster and more predictable way by a robot?

I imagine a world in which our kids will no longer need teachers, and doctors and researchers will not be needed, and everything will be perfectly robot-guided and automated. Nowadays, this might no longer be science fiction. So, what do we have left?

Fortunately, Lewis Terman had only evaluated a small fraction of the human intelligence, not taking into account what Goleman would describe as “emotional intelligence.” This is exactly what differentiates human intelligence from a static and purely rational

concept, making it much more complex and multifaceted, encompassing both cognitive and emotional aspects. We will be safe as long as machines are not able to emulate distinctly human characteristics of fundamental importance such as instinct, or the spark that transcends intelligence and logical reasoning and allows us to understand and interpret information and sensations below the surface, or empathy – the capacity to feel another person’s feelings, which comes only with self-awareness. We will find a new way to be researchers, teachers, doctors, and dentists.

Enjoy reading!

Martina Stefanini