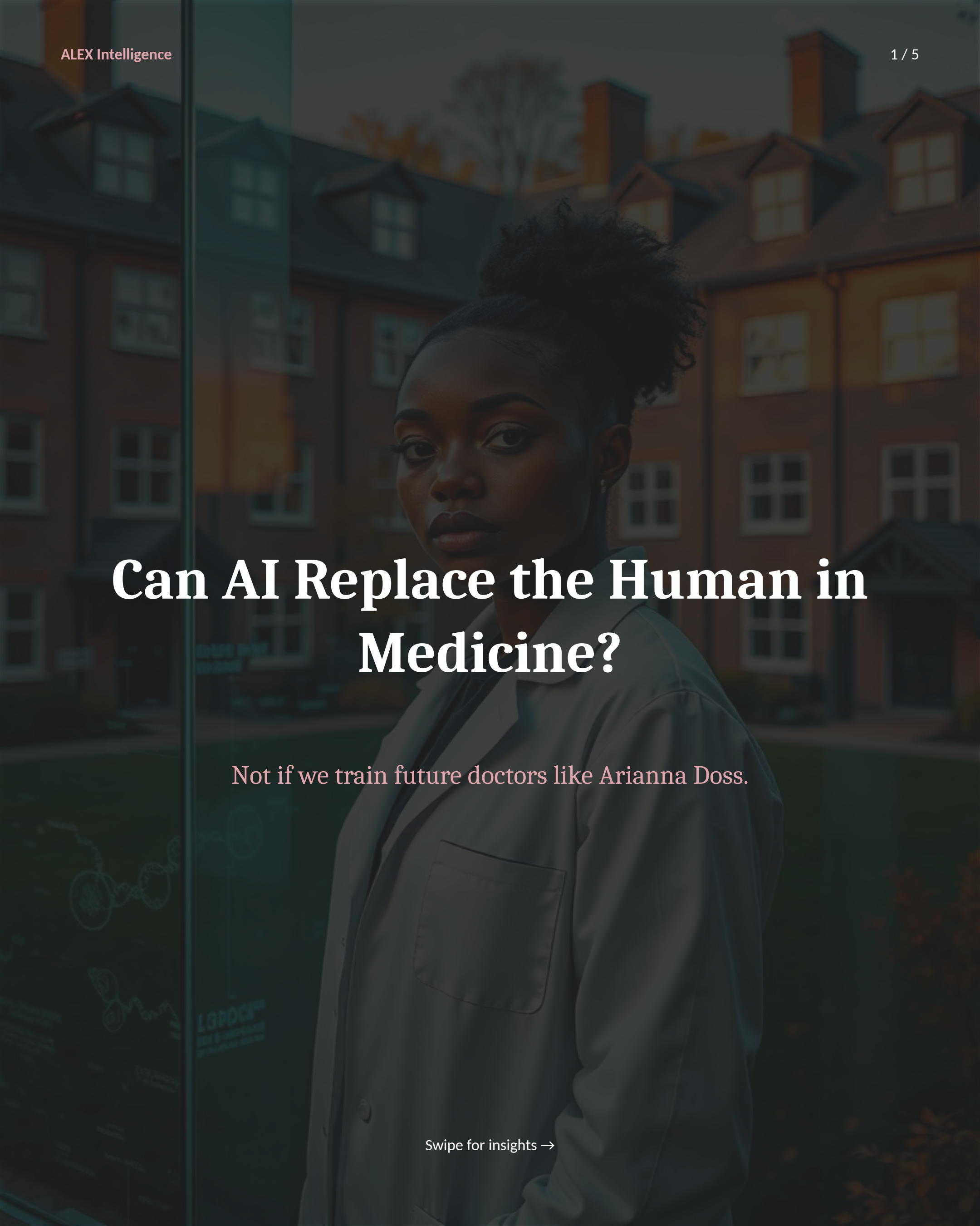

Can AI Replace the Human in Medicine?

Not if we train future doctors like Arianna Doss.

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THE DATA

2027

Rhodes Scholar Class

Arianna Doss, a biological engineering and political science senior at MIT, was named a 2027 Rhodes Scholar.

This recognition signals a shift in elite academic selection: future leaders in health are being evaluated not just on technical mastery, but on their capacity to bridge clinical practice with systemic policy change. The Rhodes Scholarship is not merely an academic honor—it's a vote of confidence in integrative thinking.



Source: MIT News · Published November 24, 2026
https://news.mit.edu/2026/arianna-doss-prescribes-change-1124

01

AI Needs Clinical Context

The most advanced AI systems in healthcare still fail where human experience prevails: in navigating the social and political dimensions of patient care. Doss's dual focus—engineering and policy—shows that AI's true utility in medicine isn't in replacing doctors, but in empowering them with deeper context.

Her work on maternal health legislation and patient navigation in public benefits systems reveals that AI tools trained only on clinical data will miss the real barriers to care. The next generation of AI must be co-designed with clinicians who understand policy.

02

Education Must Model Integration

MIT's Independent Activities Period course on the HIV epidemic in South Africa exemplifies a new model: immersive, interdisciplinary learning that blends science, policy, and lived experience.

This is the blueprint for AI in higher education—not just teaching AI to code, but teaching future innovators how to design systems that respond to the full complexity of human systems. The most valuable AI training isn't in algorithms; it's in the lived tension between equity and access.

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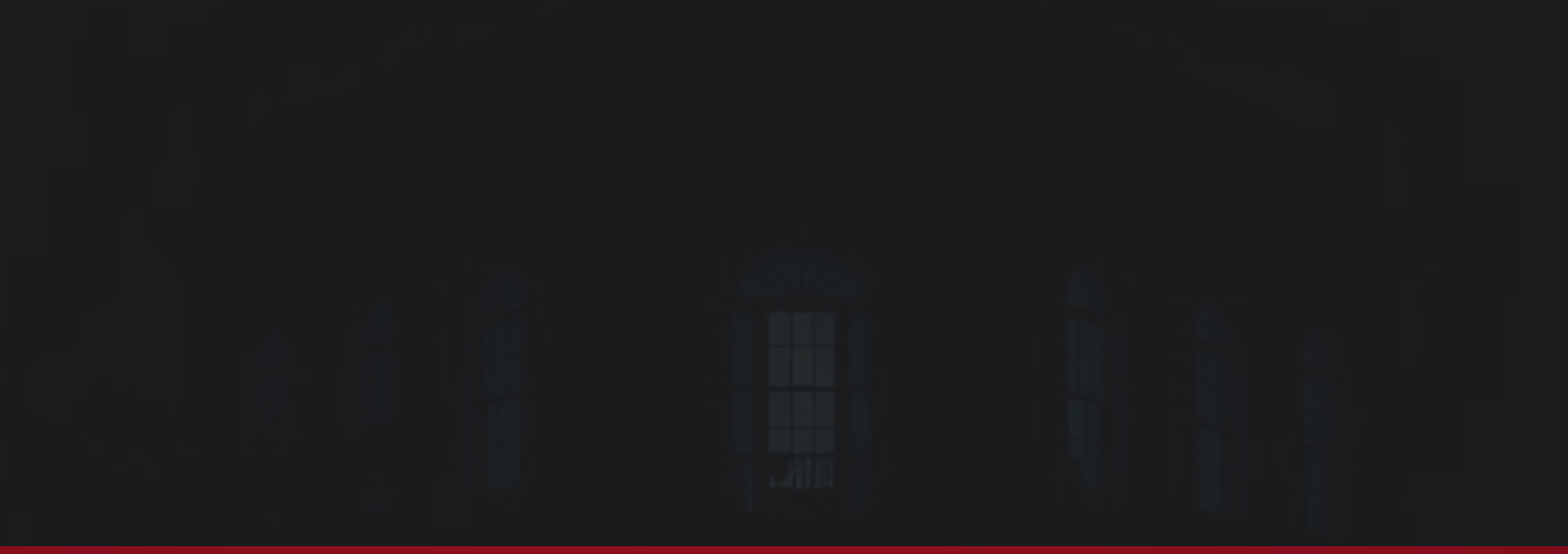

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