

Scarbrick: NHS needs the right leaders for AI to work

Commenting on new pledges around artificial intelligence in the NHS today, Chris Scarbrick at NHS diagnostic technology provider Sectra, said:

“The government’s £250m pledge for artificial intelligence in the NHS, and the announcement of a new national artificial intelligence laboratory, has the potential to be great news in enhancing the ability to diagnose serious illnesses. Though it certainly cannot replace radiologists and other NHS diagnostic professionals, AI can have a big impact on helping the health service’s increasingly pressured diagnostic services. But, whilst new money in this arena is good, AI will only work if we have the right leadership. Other industries are already recruiting chief AI officers. Now is the perfect opportunity for NHS organisations to do the same – or to go one step further and create the role of chief clinical AI officers. The NHS needs people with the authority to drive AI applications into clinical settings where they are accepted, where they can make a difference to patient outcomes and working lives, and where they can meet organisational, regional and national needs.”