

Med + Tech

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Cover image

Medical imaging technologies, like X-rays, CT- and MRI-scans (pictured) and, most recently, Mass Spectrometry Imaging, are some of the most useful tools to aid the diagnostic capabilities of healthcare professionals.

Image: Tampa General Hospital, supplied by Siphon Chauke

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Chances are that many of you reading this are able to do so in part thanks to some kind of medical intervention. Perhaps directly, for instance by wearing prescription glasses. Or indirectly, because the marvels of medical technology have saved your life in the past. Perhaps you were able to survive cancer. Or you might be totally oblivious to the fact that without modern antibiotics, diagnostics and therapeutic interventions at some turning point in your health, you likely wouldn't be here today. This is not far-fetched. Until very recently in the human story, infections and maladies that are today fairly easy to overcome, like dysentery, scurvy or the flu, killed millions upon millions of people.

Medical technology is one of humankind's most marvelous achievements. And thanks to incredible advances like MRIs, gene editing and AI, health care is getting better and better. That is why I was excited for our theme this edition, "Med + Tech", and all the exciting things it could potentially showcase. After receiving the contributions and doing the research for the edition, I was even more astounded than I had expected to be. In many healthcare fields, such as HIV/Aids, breast cancer and AI, South Africa is playing a

leading global role. That is indeed something to be proud of.

In our Featured and News sections we have some equally exciting pieces – like the Western Cape heavens being lit up by the Southern Lights, or an electric motorcycle completing a 6,000 km journey from Nairobi to Stellies. We also look at Mental Health Awareness Month, and celebrate the new Johannesburg Digital Dome and South Africa's 2024 FameLab winner. The issue has something for everyone.

As a teen who was late to be diagnosed with severe short-sightedness in one eye, I have, ever since receiving prescription contact lenses, fancied myself somewhat of a cybernetic creature – enhanced by technology. I still think that is rather accurate. And I'm sure many of you feel the same. Read on and let's celebrate the medical technologies we are most thankful for. To good health!

Warm regards,



Fanie (RS) van Rooyen (Editor)

Thekenolotši ya bongaka ke o mongwe wa diphihlelelo tše di makatšago kudu tša batho. Gomme ka lebaka la tšwelopele ye e makatšago, bjalo ka MRI, go fetola dihlahle le bohlahle bja maitirelo (AI), tlhokomelo ya maphelo e tšwela pele go kaonefala go ya pele. Ke ka lebaka leo ke bego ke thabile kudu ka sehlogo sa rena sa kgatišo ye, "Med + Tech," le dilo ka moka tše di kgahlišago tše di ka tšweletšwago ke sehlogwana se. Ka morago ga go amogela dikeno le go dira nyakišišo ya kgatišo ye, ke ile ka makatšega le go feta ka moo ke bego ke gopola. Ka mafapheng a mmalwa a tlhokomelo ya maphelo, bjalo ka HIV/AIDS, kankere ya letswela le bohlahle bja maitirelo, Afrika Borwa e raloka karolo ya boetapele mo lefaseng ka bophara.

Translated into Sepedi by ChatGPT-o1