During the 2025 Bioethics Winter School, directed by Dr. Ana Lita, I had the privilege of attending several lectures by distinguished professors. One that stuck out to me was Dr. James Giordano's discussion on the convergence of artificial intelligence and the viability of noetic neuroethics. While it only scratched the surface of this deep and complex topic, Dr. Giordano's presentation was equally educational and thought-provoking, leaving me with many questions that I seek to answer throughout my career.

One of the central themes of the presentation was cognition, or the ability to think, perceive, and act. Dr. Giordano points out that, as we stand today, AI is designed with a neuromimetic design, which gives AI the ability to learn, a previously solely human trait. This begs the question: Can AI think, and does it have consciousness? This question proves to be very difficult, not because we don't know where AI stands, but simply because consciousness is not a clearly defined topic. We know that another human is conscious because we compare them to ourselves, not because we innately know what consciousness is. This raises significant ethical concerns, particularly when the system is applied to medicine. Essentially, we do not know whether AI is a tool or an autonomous agent, and therefore, we do not know how to treat it.

Apart from the presentation itself, Dr. Giordano was generous in leaving ample time for questions, which was invaluable for understanding the complex ideas he introduced. Discussions explored questions such as whether artificial intelligence could ever possess consciousness, how we might determine the moral status of advanced cognitive systems, and who should bear responsibility when AI-assisted medical decisions lead to harm. These topics highlighted the profound uncertainty surrounding the role of intelligent systems in healthcare and the ethical frameworks needed to guide their development and use. In many ways, the lecture felt collaborative and reflected the scientific process, one defined by continual questioning, dialogue, and learning.

Ultimately, Dr. Giordano laid out some of the most intricate ethical questions on AI in an easily comprehensible format. His ability to present information while also understanding that there are so many more questions that need to be answered is refreshing. Dr. Giordano constantly challenges what he knows and the logic behind human knowledge. I am honored to have participated in this lecture, and I am left wanting so much more. I look forward to following more of Dr. Giordano's work and seeing how opinions on cognition and AI continue to evolve as development advances.

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