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Technology and Health Highlights from the 20th Annual Global Conference

Technology is reshaping modern life, from the way we work and travel to the way we treat disease. Should we fear a world built on algorithms and intelligent machines or embrace its promise of better health and greater prosperity? Historically, new technologies have created jobs and life expectancy, but as eBay's Dave Wenig notes, there's often an uncomfortable lag between disruption and renewal. Leaders who are propelling the tech revolution forward talked about the changes to come at the Milken Institute's 20th Global Conference. Watch the videos to find out what Alphabet's Executive Chairman [Eric Schmidt](#), MIT neurologist [Ed Boyden](#), NIH director [Francis Collins](#), and others had to say.

Artificial Intelligence

AI is on the brink of becoming the most transformative, and possibly the most disruptive, technology to arrive in decades. On the plus side, intelligent machines can remove some of the risks posed by human frailty. As our panelists point out, computer-driven smart cars don't get tired or drunk. And AI can learn to follow ethical and professional codes without the biases that cloud human judgment. [Where will AI have the biggest impact, and are the leading players following the best, most ethical practices?](#)

Closing the Military's Technology Gap

The Pentagon set up shop in Silicon Valley a couple of years ago to identify innovations that will improve its war-fighting capabilities. Major obstacles stand in the way. There aren't enough computer scientists in uniform and military culture balks at the tech world's try-and-fail method. Alphabet's Eric Schmidt, who also heads the Pentagon's Defense Innovation Advisory Board, and a panel of [military and tech experts talk about the problem](#).

Star Wars Solutions, Flintstones' Health-Care System

Amazon and Google know almost everything about us yet, when we see a new doctor, we write our medical histories on a piece of paper. Digital connections linking patients, big data, and providers would reduce costs and ensure that the best treatments are used. Without it we are "delivering Stars Wars solutions into the Flintstones' health-care system," observes Freda Lewis-Hall, executive vice president and chief medical officer of Pfizer. During the session "[Reducing the Economic Burden of Chronic Disease](#)," Lewis-Hall and other panelists discuss the benefits of data sharing and how to achieve them.

New Report

Breaking Down Barriers to Growth in Emerging Nations

Stock exchanges may offer a way to lower barriers to capital for small and medium-sized businesses in emerging and developing countries. The Milken Institute surveyed SME-dedicated stock exchange segments in India, South Africa, and Jamaica. The results indicate that the potential of public-equity financing is greatest when a company has strong growth prospects and can meet reporting and governance requirements. [Read the report to learn how SME trading boards are influencing SME growth](#).



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