What If the Greatest Ethical Challenge of AI Is Protecting Human Values?

We have an extraordinary opportunity to shape the future of artificial intelligence around the values that make us human. Compassion, trust, understanding, fairness, and the willingness to care about one another are not simply ideals. They are the foundation of the relationships we build, the decisions we make, and the world we hope to leave for future generations.



As AI becomes increasingly involved in how our children and grandchildren learn, how doctors care for patients, and how people connect with one another. We have a responsibility to ensure that these values remain central to its development, and we must intentionally guide AI in a way that humanity values most.

When Technology Begins to Influence Human Connection

Research published this month in *AI and Ethics* explored relationships between humans and AI companions, raising important questions about how technology may influence human connections.

Imagine a child growing up with an AI companion that is always available, endlessly patient, and ready with an answer. There may be genuine benefits, particularly for those experiencing isolation. But human relationships also teach us patience, compromise, forgiveness, and the importance of understanding someone else's needs.

Will AI strengthen those qualities, or could it unintentionally weaken the connections that make us human?

This is precisely why evaluating AI requires more than measuring its intelligence. We must also examine its purpose, its influence on human behavior, and the impact it has on people's lives.

The Promise We Must Protect

This week, researchers at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions presented preliminary findings showing how AI analysis of smartwatch recordings may help identify potentially dangerous heart conditions before symptoms become apparent.

Imagine what that could eventually mean for a family. A father receiving an earlier warning. A mother getting treatment sooner. A grandparent having more time with grandchildren.

Technology may create the opportunity. Human values give that opportunity meaning.

These two areas of research illustrate why Humaital's Human Alignment Index – HAI Score™ evaluates artificial intelligence through six interconnected pillars: Trust, Purpose, Safety, Transparency, Accountability, and Impact.

An AI companion may provide comfort, but we must understand whether it supports healthy human relationships. A medical AI system may offer earlier detection, but we must have evidence that it is reliable, safe, and genuinely improving outcomes.

The purpose of independent evaluation is to look beyond what AI promises and examine what the evidence demonstrates.

Human Values Must Become More Than Good Intentions

Australia's announcement this week of proposed AI safety requirements, including independent evaluations, reflects growing recognition that technological advancement must be accompanied by meaningful accountability.

At Humaital, we believe protecting human values requires more than ethical commitments. It requires independent evidence that AI is being developed and deployed responsibly, with people remaining at the center of its purpose and impact.

What Will We Choose to Pass On?

Imagine the world our children and grandchildren may inherit. A world of extraordinary intelligence, remarkable medical discoveries, and possibilities previous generations could scarcely imagine.

Now imagine that world without compassion, meaningful relationships, or the understanding that every human life has value.

Would we consider that progress?

The greatest opportunity before us is not choosing between technological advancement and human values. It is bringing them together.

Perhaps the greatest ethical challenge of AI is not determining how intelligent technology can become but ensuring we are intentional about guiding this technology with human values.

One day, future generations may look back and marvel at the intelligence we built. At Humaital we hope they will also be grateful for the humanity we chose to protect.

Where Humanity Leads Technology.