Announcement to Students Prior to Outline B Summarizing Gen AI Experiences

A few tips if you're considering using LLMs to help with the next round of MSGR PubMed searches

The discussion board is still open for you to review, but we wanted to share a few insights from Milestone I as many of you experimented with LLMs like ChatGPT or Bing Copilot.

Although you can ask LLMs questions, they are not search engines (yet). Responses are based on next likely words (like autocomplete), so can contain incorrect responses. This will make them most useful for "discussing" ideas on a search topic or gleaning terms to use as keywords for either PubMed searching or lookup in the MeSH Database, but not for actual searches.

The LLM knowledge base is limited by its training data. Most of the free tools have "learned" on very general datasets, so their specialized medical knowledge is limited. You'll see from some of the discussions that they have a lot of ideas and content for common disorders like Alzheimer's Disease or cardiovascular conditions and very little about rare diseases. This may be a limiter for using the LLMs for your MSGR topic.

LLM results are not consistent. Some of you received useful search strings from the LLM you tried. Others had terrible results. Unless you are well-versed in troubleshooting Boolean logic, I suggest building your own searches in PubMed. Librarians can always help you with this and any other searching challenges, so feel free to reach out to us.