Call for Papers for Special Focus Issue on Cohort Selection for Clinical Trials

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Description of Special Focus Issue
Clinical trials study new treatments and their effects, in order to identify who may benefit from new treatments and under what conditions. They define detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria in order to define the population that is appropriate for a trial, and describe participants that satisfy the criteria. In order for clinical trials to be useful, they need to recruit large enough samples that can provide statistically significant results for interpretation of the results. However, identifying sufficient numbers of participants for clinical trials can be challenging. Many trials identify participants from among patients who seek out the trial themselves or who are directed to the trial by their doctors. Recruitment from among these patients can result in limited samples with representation bias, leading to misleading conclusions (Mann, 2003; Genletti et al, 2009). A broader search for participants, based on their electronic health records (EHRs), can solve this problem. Unfortunately, the inclusion/exclusion criteria of the trials often do not match the structured data in EHRs and require the time-consuming process of manually sifting through the narratives of the records. Natural Language Processing (NLP) can help address this issue.

Matching potential participants to clinical trials is a challenging NLP task and it is the focus of this issue. In addition to work based on the 2018 n2c2 Cohort Selection for Clinical Trials task, we welcome original work exploring automated approaches to aligning clinical trials eligibility criteria and patient records including EHRs.

General Information about the journal can be found at http://jamia.oup.org.

Important Dates

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<tr>
<td>Paper submission deadline</td>
<td>January 16, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initial decisions</td>
<td>March 6, 2019</td>
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<td>Paper revisions due</td>
<td>April 11, 2019</td>
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<td>Final decisions</td>
<td>May 11, 2019</td>
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<td>Issue published</td>
<td>December, 2019</td>
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Submission and Peer Review Process
To ensure consideration in the special issue, authors should provide a cover letter that clearly states that the submission is for the “Special Focus Issue on Cohort Selection for Clinical Trials.” All manuscripts will be subject to the rigorous JAMIA peer-review process. All manuscripts, including those from the participants in the 2018 n2c2 Shared-Task and Workshop on Cohort Selection for Clinical Trials, should clearly present the novelty of the work and contribution to the field.

Manuscripts that are considered within scope and meet quality expectations will be reviewed by informatics experts for scientific merit. Manuscripts that are out of scope for this special issue, but within scope for JAMIA, may be considered for regular publication. Authors who are not
comfortable or experienced with journal-style scientific writing should seek the assistance of a technical editor to ensure that the submission meets quality expectations of the journal.

Questions Regarding the Issue
Please direct any questions regarding the special issue or submissions to Sara Tinsley at the editorial office at jamia.editorialoffice@oup.com with the subject line “Special Focus Issue on Cohort Selection for Clinical Trials”.

References:
