November 13, 2015

Lucila Ohno-Machado, MD, PhD

Editor-in-Chief

JAMIA

Dear Dr. Lucila Ohno-Machado,

Please consider our manuscript “Global Rapid Identification of Threats (GRITS)” for publication as an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association.* This article takes advantage of novel natural language processing software to identify and diagnose infectious disease threats. This work represents a valuable contribution to the biosurveillance and medical community. We feel the findings and applications of this work would be of particular interest to your readership, given the global interest in biosurveillance, public health, and health informatics. We feel that this work represents a significant advancement in understanding digital disease detection and believe that GRITS can be applied internationally across multiple languages. Coincidentally, during the development of this method the Ebola epidemic in West Africa grew and claimed thousands of lives. Technologies, like the one discussed in this manuscript, are able to partially fill gaps in infectious disease surveillance and can potentially detect these threats (like the Ebola epidemic) before they become epidemics.

This manuscript contains original research, unique analyses, and uses data from unpublished data. All coauthors have approved of this manuscript.

This manuscript contains a citation of unpublished data. The unpublished data and manuscript is under review, and supports statements that are pivotal to advancing public health. We have attached a copy of the manuscript for your review of appropriateness (see following).

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,



Andrew G. Huff, PhD, MS

Associate Vice President

EcoHealth Alliance