November 13, 2015

Iratxe Puebla, MPhil

Editor-in-Chief

PLOS ONE

Dear Ms. Iratxe Puebla,

Please consider our manuscript “Evaluation and Verification of the Global Rapid Identification of Threats (GRITS)” for publication as an article in the *PLOS ONE.* This article evaluates and verifies the output from a 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 software design, public health, and data science. We feel that this work represents a significant advancement in understanding digital disease detection accuracy and believe that GRITS can be applied internationally across multiple written 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This manuscript contains original research, unique analyses, and uses data from unpublished data.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This manuscript contains a citation of unpublished data. The unpublished data and manuscript is under review, and supports statements that are pivotal to advancing public health.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