November 18, 2015

Ruth Nussinov, Ph.D.

Editor-in-Chief

PLOS Computational Biology

Dear Dr. Ruth Nussinov,

Please consider our manuscript “Pandemic Influenza Mitigation Policy: Local Population Demographics Matter” for publication as an article in *PLOS Computational Biology.* This article discusses the testing of a portable networked agent based model (Loki-Infect 3) that was created to analyze and test pandemic influenza mitigation strategies (<http://www.sandia.gov/casosengineering/docs/MPHA_Loki3_12_2010.pdf>).

This work represents a valuable contribution to agent based modeling, public health, and the medical community. We feel the findings and practical applications of our manuscript would be of particular interest to your readership, given the global interest data science, computational models, and using advanced computational in the life sciences. We feel that this work represents a significant advancement in the understanding of pandemic mitigation based upon modeling results. Methods and models, like the ones discussed in this manuscript, are able to partially fill gaps in the understanding of disease dynamics and can be used to train the next generation of infectious disease researchers and public health policy makers. This manuscript contains original research, unique analyses, and uses unpublished data. All coauthors have approved of this manuscript.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,



Andrew G. Huff, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President

EcoHealth Alliance