Fernando Abad-Franch,

Editor

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Infectious Diseases

## Dear Dr. Fernando Abad-Franch and editorial staff,

Please consider our manuscript “Evaluation and Verification of the Global Rapid Identification of Threats System (GRITS) for Infectious Diseases in Textual Data Sources” for publication as an article in the *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Infectious Diseases.* 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 and Zika’s range as rapidly expanded. 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This manuscript contains original research, a novel software application, unique analyses, and uses data from unpublished data. All coauthors have approved of this manuscript. The software application (GRITS) is available on the Internet at: apps.eha.io

This manuscript contains a citation of unpublished data. The unpublished data and manuscript is under review, and supports statements that are pivotal to advancing public health.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 & Senior Scientist

EcoHealth Alliance