



Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association

Call for Papers for Special Focus Issue on Biomedical Data Privacy

Guest Editors

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Description of Special Focus Issue

The increasing adoption of electronic medical record systems and high-throughput technologies has enabled the collection and storage of detailed patient-specific clinical and 'omics data. This information has the potential to facilitate a vast array of secondary uses, ranging from biomedical hypothesis generation to multi-center adverse event surveillance. At the same time, there is a concern that the sharing of such information in raw form may infringe upon the privacy of the patients from whom the data were derived. This belief is reflected in policies and regulations at the federal- (e.g., the HIPAA Privacy Rule), state, and institutional levels that specify various mechanisms for mitigating intrusions in the context of health information reuse. Some of these mechanisms are technical, such as the application of de-identification methods, while other are legal, such as the inclusion of contracts that prohibit the re-identification of patients' identities.

While many clinical investigators and health providing institutions recognize that privacy should be respected, the landscape of solutions for instituting such protection is quite varied. The goal of this special focus issue of the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association is to provide a forum for presenting methodologies for protecting privacy and, when possible, their translation into practice.

The journal is interested in papers on:

- novel computational and policy approaches to biomedical data privacy protection when used and disclosed for secondary purposes;
- review papers on the state-of-the-art in privacy protection with practical applications to biomedical data;
- case studies on privacy respective clinical research and public health architectures already in deployment;
- perspective papers from leaders in this field about the present state and future of privacy protection in clinical and biomedical data (from the perspective of challenges and opportunities).

General Information about the journal can be found at <http://jamia.bmj.com>.

Topics of Interest

The special issue is interested in a wide-range of specific topics associated with biomedical data privacy. These include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Architectures for managing and sharing biomedical data with measurable guarantees of privacy
- Assessments of current or potential governance, policy, and legal frameworks for the secondary use and disclosure of biomedical data
- Cost-benefit analyses of privacy preserving technologies in healthcare settings
- Consent management solutions for biomedical systems and solutions to implement consent directives
- Models of privacy in the biomedical domain and their implications
- Methods for de-identification or anonymization of clinical databases
- Privacy-preserving approaches to distributed disease or adverse-event surveillance
- Privacy-by-design for the collection and reuse of health information for research purposes

Authors should make sure to place their work in the context of biomedical research or healthcare, and to carefully review the relevant literature. Code and data should be submitted as appropriate.

Important Dates

March 1, 2012	Manuscript submission deadline
April 1, 2012 (expected)	Initial decisions sent to authors
May 1, 2012 (expected)	Revised manuscript submission deadline
August 1, 2012 (expected)	Final decisions sent to authors
September 1, 2012	Publication

Submission and Peer Review Process

To ensure consideration in the special issue, authors should note in a cover letter that their submission is for the “Special Focus Issue on Biomedical Data Privacy”.

All manuscripts will be subject to the rigorous JAMIA peer-review process. Manuscripts that are considered within scope and meet quality expectations will be reviewed by a minimum of two experts for scientific merit. Assistance of a native English speaker is highly recommended.

Questions Regarding the Issue

Please direct any questions regarding the special issue or submissions to b.malin@vanderbilt.edu.