EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Artificial intelligence companies working on a computer-aided detection product for tuberculosis to participate in survey

BACKGROUND

Chest X-ray screening has since long been recognized as a useful screening tool for tuberculosis (TB), but limited access to trained human readers is hampering its use in many high TB burden countries. The use of computer-aided detection (CAD) products could potentially overcome some of these diagnostic challenges. Recently, WHO issued new guidelines which state that CAD software programmes may be used in place of human readers to interpret digital chest X-rays for screening and triage of TB disease among individuals aged 15 years and older in populations in which TB screening is recommended.

To provide an overview of the different artificial intelligence (AI) products for TB that are currently available, FIND and Stop TB Partnership conducted a landscaping analysis with the aim to inform TB organizations and implementors, such as National TB Programmes, Global Fund recipients, WHO and others, about available AI products. The results of this first landscape assessment were published in Tuberculosis in March 2021 and are also presented in the AI4HLTH resource center.

OBJECTIVES

Through this Expression of Interest (EOI), we are aiming to collect information for our AI4HLTH resource center, which provides up-to-date information about the latest AI products capable of interpreting chest X-rays and allows for TB implementers and researchers to compare and choose the most suitable product for their purposes.

We are requesting AI companies that have or are currently working on a chest X-ray interpretation product for TB to participate in this project by completing this survey (which takes about 40 min). Survey questions are related to the product’s stage of development, input requirements and output results as well as the company’s data sharing, pricing and update practices. Even if the product is not yet on the market or certified or is still in development, we are keen to understand more about the product if it is meant to detect TB while using chest X-ray as the input. Based on the survey results, product information of existing products will be updated on the AI4HLTH resource center, and new products will be added.

BENEFITS

- The product will be featured in the AI4HLTH resource center with developer permission
- The product will get more attention through FIND’s and Stop TB Partnership’s extensive network in the TB field
- Potential future collaborations with FIND and/or Stop TB Partnership in research or implementation projects or independent evaluations to inform WHO guidance
TIMELINE

Deadline: Friday, 3 September 2021

Based on your answers, we may contact you for further information and a brief demonstration of the product.

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

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About FIND
FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics, seeks to ensure equitable access to reliable diagnosis around the world. We connect countries and communities, funders, decisionmakers, healthcare providers and developers to spur diagnostic innovation and make testing an integral part of sustainable, resilient health systems. We are working to save 1 million lives through accessible, quality diagnosis, and save US$1 billion in healthcare costs to patients and health systems. We are co-convener of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator diagnostics pillar, and a WHO Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Strengthening and Diagnostic Technology Evaluation. For more information, please visit www.finddx.org

About the Stop TB Partnership
The Stop TB Partnership is a unique United Nations hosted entity based in Geneva, Switzerland, committed to revolutionizing the TB space to end the disease by 2030. The organization aligns more than 2,000 partners worldwide to promote cross-sectoral collaboration. The Stop TB Partnership’s various teams and initiatives take bold and smart risks to identify, fund and support innovative approaches, ideas, and solutions to ensure the TB community has a voice at the highest political levels and that all TB affected people have access to affordable, quality, and people-centered care. For more information, please visit http://stoptb.org