College of Medicine
Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics
UNIVERSITY *of* FLORIDA

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Biomedical Informatics

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Letter of support funding proposal "Deciphering Metastasis with Multimodal Artificial Intelligence Foundation Models (DECIPHER-M)"

Dear Jens,
Dear DECIPHER-M consortium,

The spread of cancer from its primary site to other parts of the body complicates treatment and affects patient outcomes. Your initiative, DECIPHER-M, addresses this key issue in cancer treatment. With the unique approach of using multimodal AI foundation models to address the extremely important question of metastasis development and localization, you are pursuing a very innovative and promising approach that we are very pleased to support.

The University of Florida (UF) Health is a leading institution for the establishment of real-world data and its adoption for cancer research. UF Health is an academic health center encompassing the UF Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions, and Veterinary Medicine, and the UF Health Shands family of hospitals (in Gainesville), the UF Health Jacksonville medical center, and UF Health Central Florida (in Leesburg and The Villages). Our networks of hospitals are private, not-for-profit, servicing patients from all 67 Florida counties.

I am Professor and the Division Chief of Biomiedical Informatics in the Department of Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics, College of Medicine, at UF. I also serve as the Chief Data Scientist and Chief Research Information Officer for UF Health as well as the Director of Biomedical Informatics for the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institue (CTSI). Relevant to this applciation, I aslo serve as the Chief Data Scientist for the UF Health Cancer Center and the OneFlorida+ Clinical Reserch Consoritum. Our computing infrastructure –HiPerGator– is top-20 worldwide, HIPAA-compliant, and features $50M new hardware from Nvidia customized for AI and deep learning.

We have already established a very successful collaboration. I am confident that this project will further strengthen our ties and enable us to conduct even more impactful research on foundational models in healthcare. In addition to scientific discussions and technical advice, our support includes access to our HiPerGator AI GPU cluster for training and inference of the DECIPHER-M models. We are also very interested in evaluating the models on our cancer patient data in a multinational, multi-center setting.

We wish you best of luck for your application,

The Foundation for The Gator Nation

Best regards,

Jiang Bian, PhD

Professor and Division Chief of Biomedical Informatics
Department of Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics
College of Medicine, University of Florida

Chief Data Scientist & Chief Research Information Officer, University of Florida Health

Chief Data Scientist, OneFlorida+ Clinical Research Consortium

Chief Data Scientist, University of Florida Health Cancer Center

Director of Biomedical Informatics Program, University of Florida Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute