It is a great pleasure to introduce the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Computational Models and Algorithms in Medicine (IJCMAM)*. The purpose of this journal is to bridge two apparently disparate areas, namely medicine and computational models and algorithms that can benefit each other by cross-pollination of ideas, methods and applications. On the one hand, medicine, and more broadly, healthcare, represents arguably one of the highest impact industries both in terms of quality of life afforded to human kind, as well as cost incurred by societies across the globe. On the other hand, computational models and algorithms, and more broadly, Information Technology, represent arguably one of the highest enablers of technological innovation. Thus, the goal of the International Journal of Computational Models and Algorithms in Medicine is to provide a comprehensive coverage of computational capabilities, prototypes, and algorithms for medical applications. IJCMAM would cover methods for organizing, retrieving, managing, and discovering data found in medicine, as well as includes articles that deal with different types of data such as numeric, text, temporal, spatial, and multimedia. This journal would offer state-of-the-art research on the unique characteristics of issues in medicine and innovative techniques to solve them.

To promote research in these areas this journal will publish research that describes computational models and algorithms, as well as exploratory data analysis techniques for large volumes of numerical, temporal, spatial, text, and image data. Targeting researchers, practitioners, academicians, and medical professionals, IJCMAM would provide a forum for sharing and developing new research methods, gaining knowledge about innovative techniques, and discussing new problems and challenges to develop ideas and implement existing methods in the field of medicine.

This is an archival journal that intends to publish articles that will have lasting importance and value over time. This is a quarterly journal that will publish about 4-5 articles in each issue. You are encouraged to submit high quality research papers for submission to this new journal. Please consult the journal Web site, http://www.igi-global.com/journals/details.asp?id=34412, for detailed information on the mission, coverage, and submission guidelines. We welcome suggestions and comments for improvements to the journal. We will try our best to implement a quick turnaround time for the reviews and ensure high quality of the articles published in this journal.

The inaugural issue contains five articles. We are grateful to the authors for submitting and revising their papers and the external reviewers for reviewing the papers as well as providing suggestions for improvements.

*A Formal Approach to Evaluating Medical Ontology Using Naturalness* by Yoo Jun An, Kuo-chuan Huang, Soon Ae Chun, and James Geller studies the problem of objectively evaluating the quality of ontologies developed...
by domain experts. The paper formalizes the notion of naturalness and suggests a quantitative measure of naturalness using some well-known ontologies such as UMLS, WordNet, and OpenCyc.

*A Partial Optimization Approach for Privacy Preserving Frequent Itemset Mining* by Shibnath Mukherjee, Aryya Gangopadhyay, and Zhiyuan Chen describes a methodology for hiding sensitive patterns by finding the optimal set of transactions that need to be sanitized. The method uses user-specified weights on the number of sensitive patterns that need to be hidden, cost of losing patterns that are not sensitive, and the damage done to the database due to data sanitization.

*Classification Systems for Bacterial Protein-Protein Interaction Document Retrieval* by Hongfang Liu, Manabu Torri, Guixian Xu, and Johannes Goll defines the task of article retrieval as a binary classification task by building classifiers using several machine learning algorithms including logistic regression and support vector machines.

*Modeling a Classification Scheme of Epileptic Seizures Using Ontology Web Language* by Bhaswati Ghosh, Partha Ghosh, and Iftikhar Sikder develops a representation language for ontological classification of epileptic seizures that provides an extensible knowledge base.

*Prevalence of Metabolic Syndrome in Subjects with Osteoarthritis stratified by age and sex: A cross sectional analysis in NHANES III* by Ashish Joshi examines the association between osteoarthritis and metabolic syndrome stratified by age and gender using the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey database.

We hope that the research published in this new journal will galvanize collaborative research on computational models and algorithms in medicine and stimulate new research ideas to address the many challenges in the field.

Aryya Gangopadhyay
Editor-in-Chief

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