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The editors encourage prospective authors to correspond with them in advance of submitting a manuscript. Submission of manuscripts should be made to the Editor-in-Chief or one of the Editors.

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Hamid Jahankhani • Stefan Kendzierskyj
Arshad Jamal • Gregory Epiphaniou
Haider Al-Khateeb
Editors

Blockchain and Clinical Trial

Securing Patient Data

Springer

Editors
Hamid Jahankhani
London Campus
Northumbria University
London, UK

Arshad Jamal
London Campus
Northumbria University
London, UK

Haider Al-Khateeb
University of Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton, UK

Stefan Kendzierskyj
London Campus
Northumbria University
London, UK

Gregory Epiphaniou
University of Wolverhampton
Wolverhampton, UK

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Foreword

In the USA, over 350k people suffer 'digital deaths' due to information errors, whilst in the UK, the number is around 30k. Poor information management is the culprit: spanning R&D results, Doctor and Surgeon notes, incorrect diagnosis, drug dispensing errors and so on. Even more basic, around 23% of all patient paper documentation is lost or not in the right place at the right time.

ICT and medical professionals have struggled for decades with these thorny problems that ultimately condense down to inadequate management systems, processes, security and governance. Probably the earliest crystallisation was around patient records and a perceived need for absolute security with access anytime, anywhere. But until recently, there was no tried and tested technology offering the capabilities to satisfy every aspect of the identified need. However, blockchain or distributed ledger fits the bill perfectly!

The basic technology has been around for over a decade and has now been widely adopted. And I think we can safely assume that if blockchain is sufficiently secure for cryptocurrencies, military, intelligence, government banking and legal applications, it is good enough for the medical sector. So the subject and content of this book turns out to be both timely and pertinent but, more importantly, sufficiently broad and deep to be both illuminating and enlightening.

The edifying treatment of blockchain technology thoughtfully argues the case for general application across the medical sector. Personally, I appreciated the detail and the vision, along with the prognosis for future application in a sector that we all rely upon. I therefore have no hesitation in commending this book to professional and lay readers alike.

It really is important to understand what blockchain is and how it complements Big Data, the IoT and AI whilst providing a governance tool that can mean the difference between life and death.

Do enjoy the read, and be prepared to be challenged.

Sentient Systems Research
The University of Suffolk,
Suffolk, UK

Peter Cochrane

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