

DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECH APPLICATIONS - HEALTH

DLTA-H Report – Volume 1, Issue 1; 01 Oct 2018
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WELCOME

Welcome to the first Distributed Ledger Tech Applications – Health or DLTA-H Report. This is the next phase of the weekly newsletter Blockchain Healthcare Situation Report or BC/HC SITREP that ran from Jul 2017 – Jul 2018 ([archives here](#)). The goal of the SITREP was to bring basic 101-level information about news and events in blockchain in healthcare to government, academic, and industry health and science leaders to expand knowledge of and comfort with blockchain technology and its potential to improve health outcomes and healthcare costs.

This was successful enough to move on to the next phase, as outlined in the [last issue](#) of the SITREP.

We now bring you DLTA-H (or [ΔH](#), because things are heating up). This phase of the newsletter is intended to bring you some of the same focus on news and events in blockchain (and other distributed ledger technologies) in healthcare, science, and beyond with an emphasis on more advanced topics: ongoing projects, advanced developments, cross-industry dialogue, barriers and solutions to implementation, in-depth theory, and an overall 201-level look at what is happening.

Why?

Healthcare is a complex industry with many inroads and applications for new technology. Blockchain has matured in finance which differs from most areas of healthcare. To get the benefit of this new tool, health leaders, providers, researchers, and administrators will have to learn to use it different ways. DLTA-H is meant to help facilitate this.

~ Sean Manion - CEO Science Distributed

BLOCKCHAIN/DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Mount Sinai Launches Biomedical Blockchain Research Center

The center will explore how to use blockchain to improve clinical decision-making and address issues in biomedical research.

“Not teaching about blockchain 'would be equivalent to ignoring internet technology when it emerged 25 years ago.’” - Ikhalq Sidhu and Alexander Fred-Ojala, UC Berkeley (Wired)

<https://healthitanalytics.com/news/mount-sinai-launches-biomedical-blockchain-research-center>

Commentary: This is an outstanding development. Hopefully they are not too short-sighted to only look internally, and hopefully other university and hospital systems follow this lead and engage cross-industry and use case application.

America Needs a Blockchain Strategy ASAP

The technology behind cryptocurrency can keep the United States safe—but only if the country takes advantage of its head start.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/08/02/america-needs-a-blockchain-strategy-asap/>

Commentary: Yes, it does need a strategy, and this extends to healthcare. DoD was tasked by Congress in the NDAA 2018 to do a full report on actual and potential blockchain application to include all critical infrastructure (healthcare is one of these). It was due in June 2018 but has not been completed to my knowledge. I think it is time for HHS to take the lead on a blockchain healthcare strategy for the US with input from DoD (DHA and the Services) and the VA.

The Latest Course Catalog Trend? Blockchain 101

New York University, Georgetown and Stanford are among the institutions that offer blockchain technology courses to get students thinking about its potential uses and to better prepare them for the workforce. Job postings requiring blockchain skills ballooned by 200 percent in the first five months of this year, compared with the same period a year earlier, though they remain less than 1 percent of software development jobs, according to the research firm Burning Glass Technologies. Universities including MIT, Cornell, and Columbia are launching labs and research centers to explore the technology and its policy implications and seed the development of rigorous curricula on the topic.

<https://www.wired.com/story/latest-course-catalog-trend-blockchain-101/>

Commentary: Conspicuously absent in the list are courses with a healthcare and health science focus. Education is key to successful adoption and implementation in any industry, especially one as complex as healthcare.

How blockchain could eliminate counterfeit medicine

Blockchain technology can be utilized to ensure transparency from start to finish in the pharmaceutical supply chain

<https://channels.theinnovationenterprise.com/articles/how-blockchain-could-eliminate-counterfeit-medicine>

Commentary: This supply chain application is low hanging fruit that could save lives in very short order and save pharma a lot of money. The opioid epidemic in the U.S. gets a lot of attention, this is one way to begin to reduce some of it.

60% of pharma companies using or trying blockchain – survey

Six out of ten pharma companies are using or experimenting with blockchain, according to a new study.

<https://pharmaphorum.com/news/60-of-pharma-companies-using-or-trying-blockchain-survey/>

Commentary: This is an interesting trend, though it may overestimate progress in pharma with the tech. If these companies are working on applications in isolation and not cross industry, they will fail to see significant value such as cheaper cross-industry pre-clinical solutions for more targeted drug development or expert registries for more targeted marketing. Blockchain education workshops are a good start but may only attract those already interested (with funding). Pharma consortium funded HIT tracks on blockchain/DLT for pharma and pre-pharma students could go further.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blockchain in Healthcare Meetup NYC – New York, NY 04 Oct

[Hashed Health](#), [Honeycomb Health](#), and [The Block](#) are extremely excited to announce a joint blockchain in healthcare meetup! This will be *the first event in The Block and WeWork's new crypto themed coworking space*.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hashed-health-honeycomb-health-the-block-blockchain-in-healthcare-meetup-tickets-50468667142>

Converge2Xcelerate (ConV2X) – Blockchain/Telehealth Conference – Columbia University, NYC 24 Oct

Partners in Digital Health presents a full day of concurrent tracks featuring sessions that present a worldview, from the foremost innovators and savants in blockchain technology and telehealth sectors in healthcare. The conference will convene up to 800 executives to address the most compelling issues, growth opportunities, and financial implications for the industry. and strategic approaches for organizations to build a sustainable, scalable, and fiscally responsible future in value-based care giving, presenting cases from inception to outcome, and so much more.

<https://convergetoaccelerate2018.sched.com/info>

Distributed Health – Blockchain Healthcare Conference – Nashville, TN 05-06 Nov

The first conference of its kind developed to bridge the gap between blockchain technologists and the healthcare industry. Now in its third year, this event presents an opportunity for decision-makers and disruptors to reimagine processes and reshape the future of healthcare across the U.S.

<https://health.distributed.com/>