**WELCOME**

I got an offer from a PR firm this week: pay them one low introductory price, and they would have an article on any blockchain related subject of my choice published in Forbes in about a week. I declined.

I don’t know how valid the offer was, or how widespread this kind of activity might be, but it got me considering transparency, objectivity, and provenance of reporting on blockchain. As I ponder these issues and discuss with colleagues how we can bring more value and authenticity to the communications relating to blockchain/DLT applications in health and science, I bring you some great contributions that I can transparently track back more closely to the source.

~ Sean Manion, PhD - CEO Science Distributed

**BLOCKCHAIN/DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY – NEWS & COMMENTARY**

**Blockchain Technology: Is it the Missing Piece in Healthcare? – Nermeen Asham, BScN, RN**

Many people today are talking about Blockchain, but one needs to look beyond the hype. The reality is Blockchain is not new. It was invented in 2008 by Satoshi Nakamoto. In the past few years, it has been discussed in terms of cryptocurrency, such as Bitcoin. However, it has other applications such as healthcare, which has been a topic of interest these days. “Blockchain in healthcare: three words igniting excitement in the hearts of health information and technology professionals everywhere. Blockchain may very well be the official health tech buzzword of 2018”

[https://medium.com/@nermeen.asham/blockchain-technology-is-it-the-missing-piece-in-healthcare-4d84ba61bd08](https://medium.com/@nermeen.asham/blockchain-technology-is-it-the-missing-piece-in-healthcare-4d84ba61bd08)

**Commentary:** A nurse’s perspective on application and challenges. I was honored to be asked to contribute.

**Top 15 Healthcare Blockchain News Stories of 2018 – John Bass**

As we think about our community’s 2019 goals and objectives in the healthcare blockchain space, I find it helps to reflect on the important and influential news of 2018. In this list, I have done my best to include projects and announcements that I consider real or indicative of a signal and not just noise. That does not mean there isn’t marketing and spin behind them. These announcements are from notable companies, but often have little detail. Several of them took me by surprise. It can be hard to tell how real they are. 2019 will tell us what kind of results are delivered from the strategies outlined in these events and announcements.


“...conservative estimates show HHS Accelerate having a measurable return on investment of over 800%. Those waiting for proof of value may have just found it.”

**Commentary:** An annual overview from one of the first entrepreneurs in the blockchain and healthcare space.

**4 Reasons Why Switzerland Will Become the Hub of CryptoHealth Innovation – Dr. Alex Cahana**

Some countries are Blockchain-friendly, others have robust Healthcare and Biomedical Research, but Switzerland has both...On November 30th CryptoOracle, GenesisBlock, Antion Biosciences and the Innovation Center at the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG), hosted the First Annual Blockchain in Healthcare and Life Sciences Summit (agenda [here](https://www.ugeneva.ch/en/mediacentre/pressconference/2018-blockchain-in-healthcare-summit)), with the attendance and support of the Department of Economic Development, Research and Innovation (DERI) of the State of Geneva and the University of Geneva (UNIGE).

**Commentary:** A look to where blockchain and healthcare are converging most effectively by the leading Sherpa.

**Columbia Blockchain Challenge Invites Students to Assess Gamifying and Improving Clinical Trials – James Dix**

CryptoOracle is a sponsor of a blockchain innovation challenge underway at Columbia University, focused on assessing whether and how blockchain technology might be applied to the recruitment for and management of medical clinical trials.  

**Commentary:** A personal look at the value of Columbia University's challenge relating to blockchain and clinical trials.

**BLOCKCHAIN/DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Beyond Blocks – Robert Miller**  
Bridging the gap between blockchain and healthcare  
A weekly newsletter on the most interesting ideas in blockchain and how they apply to healthcare


**BLOCKCHAIN/DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY - EVENTS**

**Azure Cloud Foundations Workshop for Healthcare and Life Sciences, Microsoft Building, NYC, 31 Jan**  
This Azure Cloud workshop is tailored to the specific needs of hospitals, pharmaceuticals, and related organizations in healthcare. Special guest speaker, Sean T Manion, PhD, CEO, Science Distributed, will give a non-technical executive introductory overview of blockchain/distributed ledger technology and how it is applied to healthcare related use.  

**IEEE Standards Association P2418.6 Standards Development Working Group (Blockchain in Healthcare and Life Sciences), Friday, 01 Feb, 11AM-12PM EST; open meeting**  
At this upcoming meeting, we are organizing and formalizing subgroups who will advance various aspects and dimensions of the standard; we hope you can make it. It’s an open activity with an individual ballot -- we’d love to have you join the working group. To attend the next meeting, one-time registration is here: https://lnkd.in/gYcqSf9. If you’ve already registered, no action is needed. To learn more about the working group, check out https://lnkd.in/emPsgEd.

**HIMSS Blockchain Symposium: Chain Reaction: How Blockchain Technology Brings Value to Healthcare 11 February 2019 | 8am - 4:30pm EST**: requires additional registration/fee from HIMSS Conference  
As blockchain continues to enable the exploration of innovative healthcare approaches not previously feasible, its adoption is growing. Gain an overview of blockchain fundamentals and explore real-world experiences of early adopters transforming ideas to practice. This highly interactive event will provide you the opportunity to validate your blockchain hypotheses and give you a clear sense of how to participate in blockchain ecosystems.  
https://www.himssconference.org/education/blockchain-symposium

**HIMSS Blockchain Forum: Unlocking Data: Privacy, Security, Compliance & Regulation: Provider Data 13 February 2019 | 8am - 12:30pm EST**: included with HIMSS Conference registration  
The Blockchain Forum will address the following questions: What is real in blockchain? Is it secure, private, and compliant with regulations? What is appropriate and not appropriate for blockchain?  
https://www.himssconference.org/education/blockchain-forum

**Blockchain in Healthcare Global Meetup by Chainhaus, Rise New York (Manhattan), 26 Feb, 6-9pm**  
Chainhaus along with Blockchain in Healthcare Global IEEE/ISTO (BiHG), Science Distributed (SD), and futuRXism bring you a free meetup for blockchain in healthcare in NYC. Hosted by Jamiel Sheikh (Chainhaus) we’ll cover the State of BC/HC (Sean Manion; SD, BiHG), Barriers to Implementation (Brandi Reddie; futuRXism, SD), and Nicole Tay (BiHG, SD), plus a Q/A panel with the speakers and Dr. Yauheni Solad. FREE.  