DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECH APPLICATIONS - HEALTH

WELCOME

The theme of the week is regulatory affairs. After identity, health regulatory matters will be the most critical hurdle for blockchain applications in health. This is more opportunity than problem. Application of the peer-to-peer speed and rapidly auditable quality of distributed ledgers to health regulations, from patient consent to HIPAA compliance and regulatory (IRB) audits, can become early steps to broader applications in research and EHRs. Have you been talking to your health regulatory partners about potential blockchain applications? No time like the present.

~ Sean Manion, PhD - CEO Science Distributed

BLOCKCHAIN/DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Healthcare Blockchain Projects Need to Factor in HIPAA Compliance

Organizations need to consider the HIPAA compliance and state law implications of implementing a healthcare blockchain solution, advised Mirick O'Connell Partner Matt Fisher.
https://hitinfrastructure.com/news/healthcare-blockchain-projects-need-to-factor-in-hipaa-compliance

Commentary: This is a great intro to HIPAA needs for blockchain projects. Self-assessment as HIPAA compliant is not enough. You need to be able to demonstrate that proper risk assessment has been done, and also show the safety of the nodes. In the early stages, this will be easier (i.e. possible) to accomplish with private/permissioned hybrids and/or minimal standards for nodes in public networks.

Blockchain technology: a regulatory solution, not a regulatory problem

Sadly, many regulatory authorities confuse Blockchain with cryptocurrency; one is the underlying technology infrastructure and the other is an application that utilizes such infrastructure. This broad-brush ignorance has led to regulators viewing the technology as a potential problem and something that needs to be 'controlled' and many Blockchain related businesses seeking some form of regulation as a means of providing long-term certainty.
https://medium.com/@bharat.vagadia/blockchain-technology-a-regulatory-solution-not-a-regulatory-problem-df62d7a1d17

> ### *Regulatory authorities should be thinking of regulatory sandboxes, not burying their heads in the sand.*

Commentary: The quote above says it all, but the regulatory authorities are not going to do this unprompted. In Europe, engagement with the health regulatory authorities by Spiritus and others moved the field forward. The US is still about 18-24 months behind the EU in this area. Don't believe me? What is the HHS OCR policy on blockchain? Only IHS seems to have started looking at this. Talk to a federal health regulator today. Demonstrate the value to them to increase interest.

GDPR: Results, Impacts and the Blockchain Opportunity

The General Data Protection Regulation, more commonly known as "GDPR", is a regulation in the European Union law implemented since the 25th of May 2018. It aims to increase data protection for EU citizens and individuals within the European Economic Area and simplify international regulations by unifying the European system.
https://medium.com/varanida/gdpr-results-impacts-and-the-blockchain-opportunity-d9f368d347aa

Commentary: In the States, let's not forget about GDPR. Here is a good primer for both sides of the pond.

Blockchain-based informed medical consent via Rati-Fi

Rational Surgical Solutions (Rational) is offering its Rati-Fi blockchain-based process for confirmation of informed consent for surgical or medical interventions. Rati-Fi extends blockchain technology deeper into the healthcare sector, at a sensitive nexus point – the doctor/patient/treatment interaction.
https://www.enterprisetimes.co.uk/2019/01/10/blockchain-based-informed-medical-consent-via-rati-fi/

Commentary: Great application. Speeding up consent and confirmation will save time, money, and lives.

What Does It Say When A Legal Blockchain eBook Has 1.7M Views?

But why, with so many blockchain and legal tech books and articles, is Legaler's eBook capturing so many eyeballs? One explanation is its plain-speak effort to demystify blockchain and analyze its current and future adaptations to law. The book also provides a framework for understanding how AI, software, the cloud, and other technological advances enable new delivery models to better respond to consumer demand for more transparent, efficient, scalable, cost-effective, and predictable outcomes. There is a hunger—especially among those in the early and mid-stages of their careers-- to understand these tools and new delivery models and, more importantly, how it will impact their careers.
https://www.forbes.com/sites/markcohen1/2019/01/14/what-does-it-say-when-a-legal-blockchain-ebook-has-1-7m-views/#4ec2fe61723d

Commentary: An interesting look at the hunger for curated information about blockchain in the legal world. I see the same hunger across the health and science world. Thankfully, the first course is about to be served:
Blockchain in Healthcare: Innovations that Empower Patients, Connect Professionals and Improve Care
(1st Edition, CRC Press, Productivity Press, HIMSS Book Series)

BLOCKCHAIN/DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY EVENTS

Full Day – The Security, Asset Tokens and Stablecoin Lecture Series
Includes "Tokenizing Science" Sean Manion, CEO, Science Distributed
http://chainhaus.com/events/full-day-ted-like-the-security-asset-tokens-and-stablecoin-lecture-series-51761881180/

Azure Cloud Foundations Workshop for Healthcare and Life Sciences
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.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/azure-cloud-foundations-workshop-for-healthcare-and-life-sciences-registration-53860042838

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
Highly interactive educational program that is anchored to real-life use cases and projects and will provide an opportunity to have dialogue with global experts about the business and value proposition of blockchain. 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 Reddick; futuRXism, SD), and Nicole Tay (BiHG, SD), plus a Q/A panel with the speakers and Dr. Yauheni Solad. FREE.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-blockchain-healthcare-tickets-54458706457