Biomedical Data Privacy in a Risk Management Framework

Presented by:

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Over the past several decades, numerous approaches have been developed to remove and obscure patient identifying information in the context of biomedical research. Generally, this approach to privacy protection, which is often called “de-identification” has been codified in regulations and laws, including the Common Rule and the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. At the same time, we have witnessed a growing number of investigations into how to “re-identify” such information to the patients from whom the data was derived. These demonstration attacks have called the strength of such privacy protections into question. The goal of this talk is to review why re-identification happens both from a computational and policy perspective, the extent to which such violations can be averted using risk analysis strategies rooted in quantitative decision theoretic frameworks, and how we can leverage de-identified patient data en masse to support large scale association studies. This talk will draw upon experiences in building Vanderbilt’s de-identified electronic medical record system, data sharing in NIH consortia, and work with the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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For more information, please contact Jill Shell at jill.shell@vanderbilt.edu or 6-6760.
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