WHODrug Newsletter
September 2018

UMC exploring how artificial intelligence can be applied in drug coding

UMC acknowledges that drug coding is as important as it can be challenging and time consuming. Therefore, UMC is currently exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) by machine learning and input from WHODrug experts, could be used to increase both the efficiency and consistency of drug coding.

"WHODrug users have for a long time addressed the need for better autoencoder functionality to take drug coding to the next level. With the increasing amount of trial and safety data, there is an emerging need to handle the data in a more efficient and consistent manner. I believe that we, as experts on the core WHODrug data have a unique opportunity to contribute to the user community", Malin Jakobsson, Product Strategy Manager at UMC says.

While all users of WHODrug will receive more information as the project progresses during the autumn, users with a special interest are encouraged to sign up for our dedicated autoencoder newsletter (sign up here) to be among the first to receive status updates and to follow the project and outcomes more closely.

Final release of the WHODrug B2/C formats

During a transition period, the old WHODrug B2/C formats have been available alongside the new and improved WHODrug B3/C3 formats. From the March 2019 release of WHODrug, the B3/C3 formats will be the only formats available, making September 2018 the final release for the B2/C formats. For more information on the new WHODrug formats, recommendations, as well as a guide to the UMC resources available, please visit the dedicated WHODrug B3/C3 formats section of the UMC website.

Updates on the WHODrug file packages

In the June 2018 newsletter, it was stated that the WHODrug Standardised Drug Groupings (SDGs) Excel file will be discontinued in favour of the export functionality in WHODrug Insight. After feedback from users, UMC has decided to continue to produce and distribute the SDG Excel file. However, UMC still recommends extracting the SDGs from WHODrug Insight, for the best experience.

The ATC info Excel file provides yearly updates on changes in the ATC index (as provided by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology). Historically, this file has been available within the WHODrug file packages. However, from March 2019, the information will be available from the WHODrug Change Analysis Tool (CAT) instead.

New password for your WHODrug applications

UMC is continuously working to improve the experience and strengthen the security of accessing the UMC applications and website. During the autumn, UMC will implement a new login system for all applications, thus requiring all WHODrug users to set new passwords for their UMC accounts. More information will be available in October.

Please note that UMC staff will never ask you to provide your password or any personal information unrelated to the services you are using in an email or during a call. Your UMC password should be treated as confidential information to avoid unlawful use or so-called "phishing" activities. For any questions, please contact WHODrug@who-umc.org.

Forthcoming WHODrug User Group Meetings

Join us for any of our 2018 WHODrug User Group Meetings to learn more about WHODrug, participate in interactive workshops, and network with colleagues in the industry. Below is a list of forthcoming meetings:

• Beijing, China, September 10, 2018 (registration closed – meeting fully booked)
• South San Francisco, CA, USA, September 27, 2018
• Tokyo, Japan, December, 2018 (more information to be announced)

Registration is free of charge if you are working for an organisation with a valid WHODrug license. For an updated list on forthcoming meetings and to register, please visit the UMC website.

UMC has already started planning for the 2019 WHODrug User Group Meetings, and all users are invited to help to formulate the meetings. To apply to be part of the 2019 Programme Committee please click here, to submit a presentation abstract, please click here.

Next WHODrug monthly webinar

Join the webinar on Tuesday, September 11 to learn about new developments and improvements in the September 1, 2018 release of WHODrug. Sign up on the UMC website

Did you know?

A PhUSE (Pharmaceutical Users Software Exchange) working group consisting of members from across the industry has recently published a white paper on pooling WHODrug B3 format data. The final version of the paper can be downloaded from the PhUSE website.

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