

#### DATA INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETAL CHALLENGES The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA



# YEAR-END REPORT

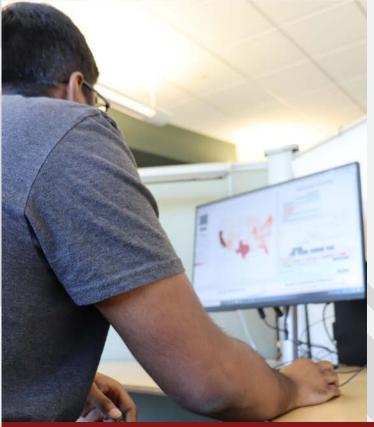
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Data Institute for Societal Challenges University of Oklahoma Five Partners Place 201 Stephenson Pkwy, Ste 4600 Norman, OK. 73019 405-325-4158 disc@ou.edu

### **MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR**



Dear Colleagues,

We are excited that the Data Institute for Societal Challenges (DISC) has hit its two-year mark this past June! We thank each of you for your support and collaboration.

FY 2022 was a year full of accomplishments for our DISC team, members, and affiliates. The DISC community is growing with many exciting communities of practice forming and teams proposing innovative approaches to challenging, important problems. During this year, we hosted a variety of events to connect researchers within and beyond OU. Many of our members submitted proposals to various agencies. Additionally, DISC provided seed funding to researchers from across campuses. We also expanded our seed funding competitions and partnered with the Stephenson Cancer Center, the Institute for Community and Society Transformation, and Oklahoma Aerospace and Defense Innovation Institute.

This end-of-the-year report will provide an overview of what the DISC team, members, and affiliates have accomplished in FY 2022.

We look forward to continuing to grow and support our community with a year full of accomplishments and collaborations in FY 23.

Sincerely, Dr. David Ebert, Director

### **DISC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**



Highlights from our Team

Our DISC team has been actively engaging with our OU community in various ways:

- Connecting researchers across campuses
- Creating communities of practice
- Facilitating the development of transdisciplinary proposals to agencies such as the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation
- Hosting research talks, teaming sessions, and meet and greets
- Visiting departments to introduce DISC
- Assisting, coordinating, and supporting proposal writing efforts
- Mentoring undergraduate and graduate students
- Developing machine learning tutorials in collaboration with the OSCER supercomputer team

#### **DISC DEI Commitment**

The Data Institute for Societal Challenges is committed to achieving a diverse, equitable, and inclusive data science community by embracing and valuing each person's unique contributions, background, and perspectives.

Read our full statement on supporting DEI at DISC on our website, <u>ou.edu/about-disc</u>

### **RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT EFFORTS**



### **RESEARCH SEED FUNDING**

DISC expanded its research seed funding program in FY22. This program incentivizes transdisciplinary and convergent research teams focused on tackling grand challenges. Seed funding allows OU researchers to incubate ideas with the potential for future extramural support. DISC also cohosted seed funding competitions with the Stephenson Cancer Center, the Institute for Community and Society Transformation, and Oklahoma Aerospace and Defense Innovation Institute. Additionally, DISC awarded multiple seed awards with its monthly seed funding program.



The seed funding allowed OU researchers in FY22 to:

Generate proof of concepts and results

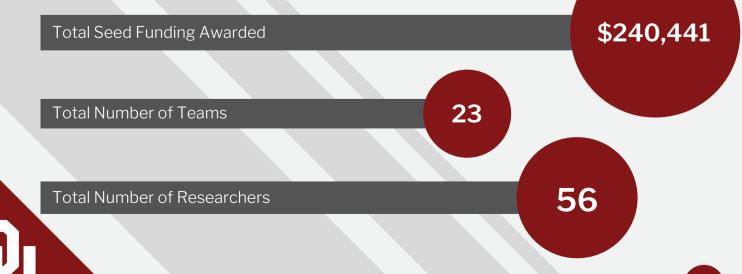
Hire graduate research assistants

Apply for external funding from agencies such as NSF, DOD, and DOE

Host workshops

Disseminate findings via journal articles and conferences

### **DISC SEED FUNDING AWARDS RECAP**



#### **DISC & SCC SEED** FUNDING COMPETITION

# \$100,000 TOTAL AWARD

\$50K AWARDED BY DISC AND \$50K AWARDED BY THE **STEPHENSON CENTER (SCC)** 

#### Project

Automated Pancreatic Tumor Segmentation with Improved Capsule Networks

#### Team Members

### Amount Awarded

Samuel Cheng Bin Zheng Theresa Thai

\$80.000

### Project

A proof-of-concept study aimed at leveraging cognitive computing to optimize patient selection, speed of accrual, and on-treatment data capture for phase 1 oncology clinical trials at the Stephenson Cancer Center

Team Members Abdul Rafeh Nagash Chongle Pan Kun Lu

#### Amount Awarded \$20.000

#### DISC DIGITAL HUMANITIES SEED FUNDING

Project

Air, Water, and Work in Ottawa and Delaware Counties

Team Members Laurel Smith

Amount Awarded \$10.000

Project

Congressional Correspondence Handwriting Textract Project

Team Members Amount Awarded \$2.500

Michael Crespin JA Pryce

Project Access Granted: Engaging with Fragile Illuminated Manuscripts

Team Members Bill Endres Kristi Wyatt **Bobby Reed** 

#### Amount Awarded \$10,000

#### DISC MONTHLY SEED FUNDING PROGRAM

#### Project

Advancing Data Science to Understand Social Attitude Changes Related to Climate Disasters

Team Members Heather Bedle

Amount Awarded \$8,000

Project

Leveraging Commuting Data to Understand Diurnal Variation in Poverty Exposure

J. Tom Mueller

Team Members Amount Awarded \$8.000

Project Interacting Genetic and Imaging Biomarkers for Sex Differences in Alzheimer's Disease Risk

Team Members Yuan Yang Dee Wu Andry Yabluchanshiy William Sonntag

Amount Awarded \$10,000

#### DISC MONTHLY SEED FUNDING PROGRAM

#### Project

Locating, Cataloging, and Assessing Historical Land Ownership Data in Rural African American Communities in Western Oklahoma

Team Members Kalenda Eaton Amount Awarded \$7,000

#### Project

Increasing Belonging Through Undergraduate Research Experiences for Community College Students interested in Data Science

#### Team Members

Ann Beutel Matthias Nollert

## Amount Awarded \$8,800

**Project** Active Learning Method for Fair and Useful Learning to Rank (L2R) in Information Retrieval

#### **Team Members** Jiqun Liu Chao Lan

Amount Awarded \$9,800

#### DISC MONTHLY SEED FUNDING PROGRAM

#### Project

Quantifying the Availability of Groundwater in Underdeveloped Rural Areas from Geophysical Data

Team Members Sina Saneiyan Amount Awarded \$6,500

#### Project

Analysis of Single Molecule RNA Sequencing Data to Discover How Viruses Reprogram Host Gene Expression

#### Team Members Susan Schroeder

Amount Awarded \$10,200

**Project** The Social and Economic Cost of Brands Staying Silent on Sociopolitical Issues

#### Team Members

Pankhuri Malhotra Yashoda Bhagwat Nooshin Warren

## Amount Awarded \$10.000

#### DISC MONTHLY SEED FUNDING PROGRAM

**Project** Statistics Helper by Claire Curry, University Libraries

Team Members Claire Curry Amount Awarded \$10,000

#### Project

A proof-of-concept study aimed at leveraging cognitive computing to optimize patient selection, speed of accrual, and on-treatment data capture for phase 1 oncology clinical trials at the Stephenson Cancer Center

### Team Members

Amount Awarded \$10,000

**Project** The Decision Environment of Resilient Communities

#### Team Members

Katerina Tsetsura Dean Hougen Xiaochen Zhan

### Amount Awarded \$12,433

#### DISC MONTHLY SEED FUNDING PROGRAM

#### Project

A Publicly Available, High-Resolution Dataset on Land Cover Characteristics for the Oklahoma City Metropolitan

Area **Team Members** Jennifer Koch Kevin Neal

Amount Awarded \$7,208

### DISC/OADII SEED FUNDING PROGRAM

#### Project

Securing Critical Networks from Weaponized Disinformation Attacks: Initial Surveys

#### Team Members

#### Amount Awarded

Kash Barker Elena Bessarabova Andrés González Sridhar Radhakrishnan \$10,000 from DISC \$10,00 from OADII

#### DISC/OADII SEED FUNDING PROGRAM

#### Project

Junying Zhao

Enhancing DoD Vaccine Innovation and Supply for Warfighters and Biodefense

#### Team Members Myongjin Kim

Amount Awarded \$10,000 from DISC \$10,00 from OADII

#### DISC/ICAST SEED FUNDING PROGRAM

#### Project

Vicki Lake

Understanding Equity and Opportunity for Myanmar Refugee Children and their Families

#### Team Members

#### Amount Awarded

\$10,000 from DISC \$20,000 from ICAST

Boo Young Lim June Abbas Wonkyoung Jang Chie Noyori-Corbett Jiening Ruan Sheri Castle

#### 13

#### DISC/ICAST SEED FUNDING PROGRAM

Project

Developing Mobile Technology to Assist with Youth Diversion Services

#### Team Members

David Mcleod Dean Hougen Constance Chapple Amount Awarded \$10,000 from DISC \$20,000 from ICAST

#### Project

Longitudinal Development of Children Growing up in Poverty: The Mix of Child, Family, School, and Neighborhood

#### Team Members

Shinyoung Jeon Sheri Castle Liz Frechette Mike Wimberly Bryce Lowery

#### Amount Awarded

\$10,000 from DISC \$20,000 from ICAST

### **CURRENT COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE**

#### Brain and Behavior Community of Practice

This group is working to understand how the human brain controls and learns to control behavior, and how disease impacts these processes. The group includes faculty, postdocs, and senior graduate students in brain imaging, sensing of brain chemistry and motor behavior, data analysis, and computational modeling. For more information, please contact Andy Fagg at andrewhfagg@gmail.com

#### Earth System Science Community of Practice

This group brings together researchers working on understanding processes in the biosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and their linkages. In our conversations, we apply a systems approach, identify synergies and shared research interests around the broader topics of Earth systems science, observation and prediction of the Earth system, and work towards describing these ideas and synergies in one-page summaries to be prepared for emerging funding opportunities and to reach out to program managers of potential funding agencies.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Koch at jakoch@ou.edu

#### Digital Humanities Community of Practice

This group works to bring people together who work in digital humanities or would like to engage in digital humanities work to foster collaboration. Dr. Carrie Schroeder and Dr. Kimberly Marshall are the co-facilitators of these endeavors.

To be added to the Digital Humanities Community of Practice listserv, please contact Jack Wagner at jwagner19@ou.edu

#### Neuroscience Community of Practice

The Neuroscience Community of Practice is focused on developing deeper research and educational connections between the Neurosurgery department at OUHSC and those working at OU-Norman. This is a relatively broad research area, from single cell to full neural systems, and the meetings to date have reflected this.

For more information, please contact Andy Fagg at andrewhfagg@gmail.com

#### **Opioid Research Group**

This group has approximately 90 members consisting of faculty, staff, and graduate students across OU's campuses who are interested in research to address the opioid crisis in Oklahoma and the U.S. The goal of the group is to keep abreast of opportunities for opioid-related funding, share ongoing research to foster collaboration and expansion of the research, and, ultimately, use research to develop and implement solutions. For more information, please contact Erin Maher at erin.maher@ou.edu

#### The Community Engagement Community of Practice

The OU Community Engagement Community of Practice was cosponsored by the Center for Faculty Excellence and DISC. This community of practice emphasizes community-engaged OU researchers, educators, and scholars across campuses and disciplines.

If you are interested in community-engaged research or service-learning and have questions about this program or other opportunities to learn more about community-engaged research or service learning, please contact Joy Pendley at pendley@ou.edu

#### Additional communities of practice are being planned for Fall 2022

### **DISC MEMBERSHIP & DATA SCIENCE COMMUNITY**

#### **DISC MEMBERSHIP**

DISC provides various benefits to faculty, staff, and postdoctoral scholars interested in becoming a member. Active members have the opportunity to interact with an evergrowing data science community at OU, as well as the following:

- Grant development services
- Support in developing and interpreting preliminary results
- Advice and support on large collaborative grant proposals
- Access to potential seed funding opportunities
- Letters of support
- Research promotion on the website, newsletters, and social media
- Mentorship opportunities for junior faculty

### **132 MEMBERS**

#### 97 FACULTY

2 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

11 RESEARCH STAFF

22 UNDERGRAD AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

#### DATA SCIENCE COMMUNITY

The Data Science Community Directory was developed to help researchers, students, and research staff connect across disciplines and facilitate team-building and partnerships at OU. To date, we are continuing to add to our directory to keep assisting the data science community make those invaluable research and education connections. This directory is accessible via <u>DISC's website</u>. Join our data science community today!

### 287 MEMBERS

### 201 FACULTY

2 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

17 RESEARCH STAFF

67 UNDERGRAD AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

### A SAMPLING OF PUBLICATIONS BY DISC MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

Abshirini, M., Saha, M. C., Altan, M. C., & Liu, Y. (2022). 3D Printed Flexible Microscaled Porous Conductive Polymer Nanocomposites for Piezoresistive Sensing Applications. Advanced Materials Technologies. https://doi.org/10.1002/admt.202101555

Badre, A., & Pan, C. (2022). LINA: A Linearizing Neural Network Architecture for Accurate First-Order and Second-Order Interpretations. *IEEE Access, 10,* 36166–36176. https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2022.3163257

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17 -

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Chen, Y., & Liu, Q. (2022). Signaling Through Advertising When an Ad Can Be Blocked. *Marketing Science*, 41(1). https://doi.org/10.1287/mksc.2021.1288

Chenin, J., & Bedle, H. (2022). Unsupervised Machine Learning, Multi-Attribute Analysis for Identifying Low Saturation Gas Reservoirs within the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico, and Offshore Australia. *Geosciences*, 12(3), 132. https://doi.org/10.3390/geosciences12030132

Danala, G., Desai, M., Ray, B., Heidari, M., Maryada, S. K. R., Prodan, C. I., & Zheng, B. (2022). Applying Quantitative Radiographic Image Markers to Predict Clinical Complications After Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: A Pilot Study. *Annals of Biomedical Engineering*, *50*(4). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10439-022-02926-z

Danala, G., Maryada, S. K., Islam, W., Faiz, R., Jones, M., Qiu, Y., & Zheng, B. (2022). A Comparison of Computer-Aided Diagnosis Schemes Optimized Using Radiomics and Deep Transfer Learning Methods. *Bioengineering*, 9(6), 256. https://doi.org/10.3390/bioengineering9060256

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Ferraro, A. C., Maher, E. J., & Grinnell-Davis, C. (2022). Family ties: A quasi-experimental approach to estimate the impact of kinship care on child well-being. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 137, 106472. https://doi.org/10.1016/J.CHILDYOUTH.2022.106472

Gai, T., Thai, T., Jones, M., Jo, J., & Zheng, B. (2022). Applying a radiomics-based CAD scheme to classify between malignant and benign pancreatic tumors using CT images. *Journal of X-Ray Science and Technology*, *30*(2). https://doi.org/10.3233/XST-211116

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19

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Merchan-Breuer, D. A., Murphy, E., Berka, B., Nova, L. C. M., Liu, Y., & Merchan-Merchan, W. (2022). Synthesis of Carbonaceous Hydrophobic Layers through a Flame Deposition Process. *Applied Sciences*, *12*(5), 2427. https://doi.org/10.3390/app12052427

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Nouh, C. D., Ray, B., Xu, C., Zheng, B., Danala, G., Koriesh, A., Hollabaugh, K., Gordon, D., & Sidorov, E. v. (2022). Quantitative Analysis of Stress-Induced Hyperglycemia and Intracranial Blood Volumes for Predicting Mortality After Intracerebral Hemorrhage. *Translational Stroke Research*, *13*(4). https://doi.org/10.1007/s12975-022-00985-x

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Wang, J., Marashizadeh, P., Weng, B., Larson, P., Altan, M. C., & Liu, Y. (2022). Synthesis, Characterization, and Modeling of Aligned ZnO Nanowire-Enhanced Carbon-Fiber-Reinforced Composites. *Materials*, *15*(7), 2618. https://doi.org/10.3390/ma15072618

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Disclaimer: Not presented as a fully comprehensive list of DISC/DISC-Member FY 22 publications.

### **DISC DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE**

Establishing OU as a nationally recognized leader for data science research and data-driven solutions to societal challenges is a continued commitment for DISC in FY23. To work towards accomplishing this, DISC will commit to the following goals.







#### DISC FY23 GOALS

- Continue hosting research team-building workshops in response to federal and state grant funding opportunities
- Increase our submitted funding applications in data science or data enabled by 15%
- Expand our guest speaker program
- Establish named student data science/data science scholarships funded by industry leaders and begin recruiting student DISC fellows
- Continue our commitment to provide administrative and technical support and seed funding for developing data science and data-enabled research proposals
- Establish a community and corporate affiliates program
- Develop and grow OU stakeholder training in data analytics and data-enabled research techniques
- Increase our DISC membership by 10%
- Host DISC's first Annual Data Science Symposium









24