NDS AI NETWORK ROUND TABLE

Minutes | 2pm Friday 7 June 2024

Attendees: Maria Kaiser (MK), Regent Lee (RL), Monica Dolton (MD), Louise King (LK), James FitzGerald (JF), Scott Collins (SC), Dimitrios Doultsinos (DD), Usama Zidan (UZ), Jessica Scaife (JS), Sheraz Markar (SM), John Kellas (JK), Anette Magnussen (AM), Emily Hotine (EH)

Apologies: Peter McCulloch (PM), Simon Knight (SK)

Unable to attend: Dan Woodcock (DW), Giovanni Rolandino (GR), Thineskrishna Anbarasan (TA), Sandy Figiel (SF), Srinivasa Rao (SR), Alastair Lamb (AL), Conor Keogh (CK), Wencheng Yin (WY),

Location: L1 Seminar Room, IDRM, and Teams

Agenda Item 1	Welcome
	MK welcomed the network as the chair for this meeting.

Agenda Item 2	Previous meeting minutes
	The minutes from the first meeting were approved. The outcomes/decisions from the following actions have been communicated to the network. UZ explored the various storage solutions that are accessible to Oxford users and a summary document, which is based on the feedback received from the various alternatives suggested by IT Services, was shared via email. Of particular note is the Research File Service, which is 20TB free to all Oxford researchers. LK spoke to Tarryn Ching, and she is happy for the network to have an AI theme slot at Surgical Grand Rounds, initially for once a year during the Michaelmas term. MD and LK are working on setting up an online questionnaire to gather information for a catalogue of resources, and they will be in touch about this soon. MD attended the NDS Research Committee meeting on 13 March 2024. MK invited MD to join the NDS Research Committee to provide a link to AI activities/information etc. for researchers.

Agenda Item 3	

Network remit and structure	MD ran through the activity of the network so far. The aim of this group is to promote AI in the department and to ensure the skills, compute resources and other support is available to advance the diverse use of AI across NDS and to support researchers using AI. Mission statement and remit to be discussed further at future meetings.

Agenda Item 4	
Common needs and problems	MK posed the question – how can we create a more robust platform for big data, storage, expertise and skills within NDS? This led to general discussion. SM commented that there is a lack of storage in SITU and there is a question around where to store videos. In particular, SM detailed the future storage requirements for the surgical quality assurance / using AI for assessment of surgical quality project (partnered with Metronic). There are a number of videos which will need suitable storage after the first five years of the project as the project has a 20-year ethics provision. ACTION: Add video storage/future storage needs to the online questionnaire. MD suggested asking a representative from IT Services/MSD IT to come and talk to the network. ACTION: Contact IT Services/MSD IT about joining a future meeting. A discussion was had about a need for bioinformaticians in the department and whether we should rely on expertise in other departments or develop skills in NDS. The consensus was that there is no point hiring one person to do the data analysis as there is too much work and it would be overwhelming. However, this means that there is a skills gap in this regard within the department. This was followed by a discussion around skills and career development. Hackathons are a great way to pick up skills. JK suggested Oxford University AI Society was a good resource. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to develop a skills register and use the existing NDS training fund. Courses could be set up that can use the fund. Core skills are useful for CV's and projects. Should we think about provision for patient and public training in AI - in healthcare, for instance? MK raised the question of whether lack of expertise limits progress in research, for instance, researchers who have data sets that need analysis? EH attended the meeting to inform the network that her partner has expertise in machine learning and may have insight into potential solutions to department's AI-related challenges. AM commented that there is lots of data that she doesn't know how to analyze. Research scientists are less supported in the department. They are not data analysists, and they feel totally overwhelmed. There is a requirement for a support structure within NDS.

Agenda Item 5	
AOB	MK spoke about the upcoming Researcher's Day, which is being planned and suggested that AI should be a topic for the meeting.

Agenda Item 6	Actions	Decision / Outcome
	1. DD to book room in IDRM for next meeting. 2. RL to contact MSD IT/Central IT about data storage solutions.	1. Room was booked 2. UZ explored storage solutions with IT Services

	3. LK to contact Tarryn Ching about AI theme slot at Surgical Grand Rounds. 4. MD to attend NDS Research Committee meeting on 13 March 2024. 5. MD to contact IT Services/MSD IT about joining a future meeting - NEW	3. AI theme slot, initially once a year, approved 4. MD attended the meeting
	1. MD and LK to create an online questionnaire with questions (inc. video storage) to share with the network. 2.	1. Draft questionnaire being finalised - ONGOING

Agenda Item 7	Date of next meeting
	To arrange for the start of Michaelmas term