



Proposal for Panel Discussion on Research Ethics Reviews for AI/ML-enabled Health Research Studies

Objective

To host an online panel discussion in March 2021 in partnership with the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Board (CAREB-ACCER), related to the challenges and considerations for research ethics reviews of health research utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) methodologies.

Proposal

Institutional appetite is increasing for health AI research and deployment within care settings across Ontario and Canada. The Vector Institute has recently been involved with a number of health related projects that have highlighted the need for: (a) increased research ethics board (REB) understanding of the unique nature of AI/ML-based research methodologies; and (b) health AI/ML researcher understanding of REB review requirements and considerations.

In an effort to begin addressing the issues and considerations associated with the research ethics review of AI/ML-based health research, the Vector Institute is proposing to host an online panel discussion that brings together the perspectives of multiple stakeholders. CAREB-ACCER has indicated interest in building on this panel discussion with a series of educational webinars to help train members of the REB community. The Vector Institute remains open to supporting such an initiative, as appropriate.

Format and Timelines

Vector is proposing to host a 1.5 hour webinar in March 2021 (exact date TBD). The panel is expected to consist of 3-4 speakers with representatives from the ML research and REB communities, as well as other subject matter experts knowledgeable in the regulatory requirements of REB processes.

Partners

We believe that Vector's deep expertise in AI and ML research and CAREB-ACCER's broad network of REB professionals uniquely positions us as strategic partners to convene this discussion in an effort to bridge knowledge and process gaps.

The Vector Institute is an independent, not-for-profit corporation dedicated to research in the field of AI, excelling in machine and deep learning. The Vector Institute works with institutions, industry, start-ups, incubators and accelerators to advance AI research and drive its application, adoption and commercialization across Canada. A key focus at Vector is to enable our partners in the health and academic sectors to implement leading edge AI research in support of better whole-life health.

CAREB-ACCER is a grassroots national membership organization consisting of REB professionals, namely chairs, members and administrators of research ethics boards. The association is intended to represent the interests of all Canadian REBs and to reflect REB perspectives and concerns.



Resources

Vector and CAREB-ACCER would work together to identify and invite panel speakers and shape the discussion.

Additionally, Vector would provide the following supports towards this webinar:

- Project management
- Event management, including registration, speaker management and webinar logistics

CAREB-ACCER is being asked to contribute marketing and outreach activities within its networks to drive registration for the event. No cash contribution is requested for this event.

Next Steps

1. Confirmation of CAREB-ACCER's participation after meeting on January 20.
2. Confirmation of date and time for the event.
3. Identify panelists and issue speaker invitations.