Cover Letter

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to submit our manuscript titled "People-like-Me Methods with Mahalanobis distance: A Personalized Prediction of Longitudinal Growth in Children" for consideration of publication in Biometrics (Practice) Journal. All co-authors agree with this submission and have no conflicts of interest to report.

In this paper, we employed a new personalized prediction method call People-Like-Me (PLM) with nonlinear longitudinal data. PLM consists of using curves that are similar to the particular individual we wish to predict for to predict a future trajectory for the target individual. Matches are traditionally found by calculating Euclidean distances between the target trajectory and the potential matches at a single time point. In this paper, we build from previous work on PLM to i) use Mahalanobis distance as an alternative to the traditionally used Euclidean distance for calculating matches; and ii) compare the predictions from PLM using Euclidean and Mahalanobis distances to predictions derived from a linear mixed model (LMM). We believe that our manuscript aligns with the mission of Biometrics Practice.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Juarez-Colunga Associate Professor
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