Predicting COVID-19 Severity Using Bayesian Networks in wiseR

Agenda

Topics Covered

DATA & PREPROCESSING

ASSOCIATION NETWORK

STRUCTURE LEARNING SETUP

NETWORK STRUCTURE
VISUALIZATION

INFERENCE LEARNING & ANALYSIS

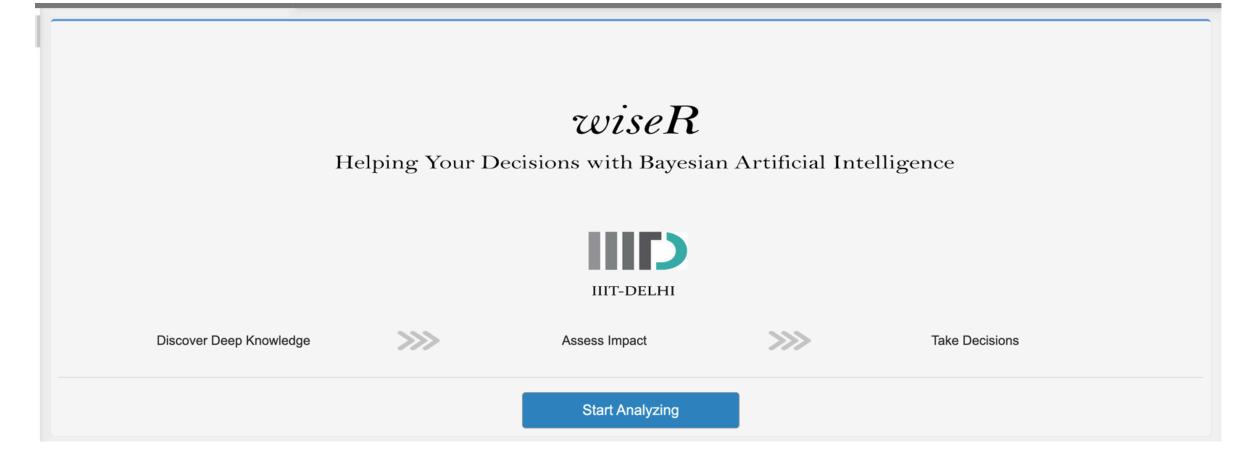
RESULTS & CONCLUSION

MODIFICATIONS

FUTURE WORK

OBJECTIVE

The aim of this project is to utilize Bayesian networks within the wiseR tool to analyze and predict COVID-19 severity in patients. By replicating and enhancing an existing research study, we explore relationships among various biomarkers that could indicate the likelihood of severe COVID-19 outcomes by using wiseR dashboard.



TOPIC SELECTION

COVID-19 severity prediction was chosen due to its high relevance to public health. Identifying key biomarkers linked to severe outcomes can inform better clinical decision-making, resource allocation, and patient management strategies during pandemics.

In this project, we aim to validate the hypothesis that biomarkers like S100A12 are significantly associated with an increased risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes, as suggested in the referenced studies by Shubham Maheshwari et al. (2021) and Gallo Marin et al. (2021).

DATA & PREPROCESSING

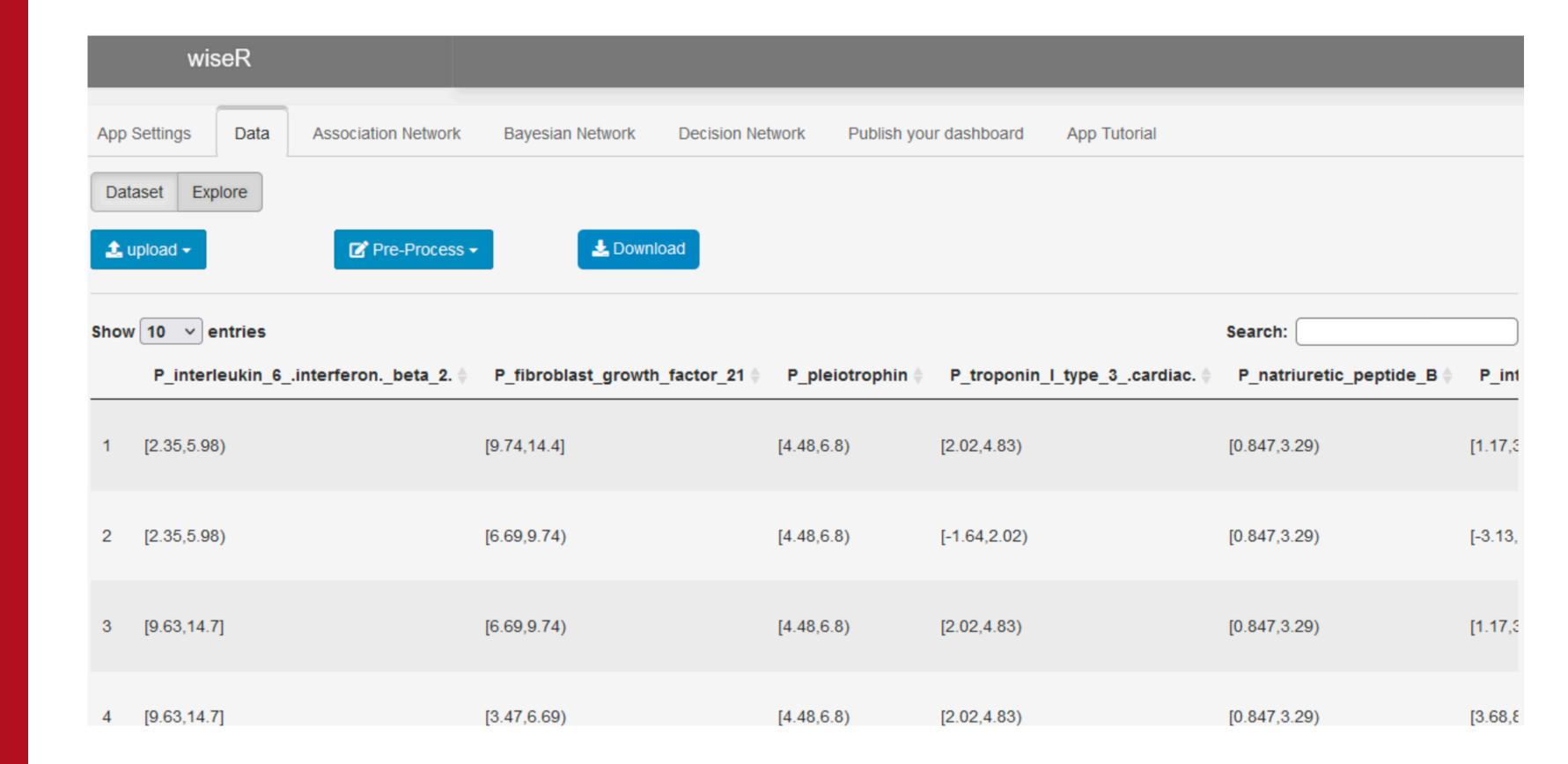
DATA & PREPROCESSING

Dataset Overview:

We used "data.csv," which contains COVID-19 patient data including demographic information, protein markers, and clinical variables relevant to COVID-19 severity. The dataset allows us to explore how specific biomarkers correlate with disease outcomes.

Preprocessing Steps:

- Merging and Dimensionality Reduction: Protein and metabolome variables were processed using PCA to reduce dimensionality and focus on significant features.
- **Discretization:** Variables were discretized to simplify the analysis, making it compatible with Bayesian network modelling.



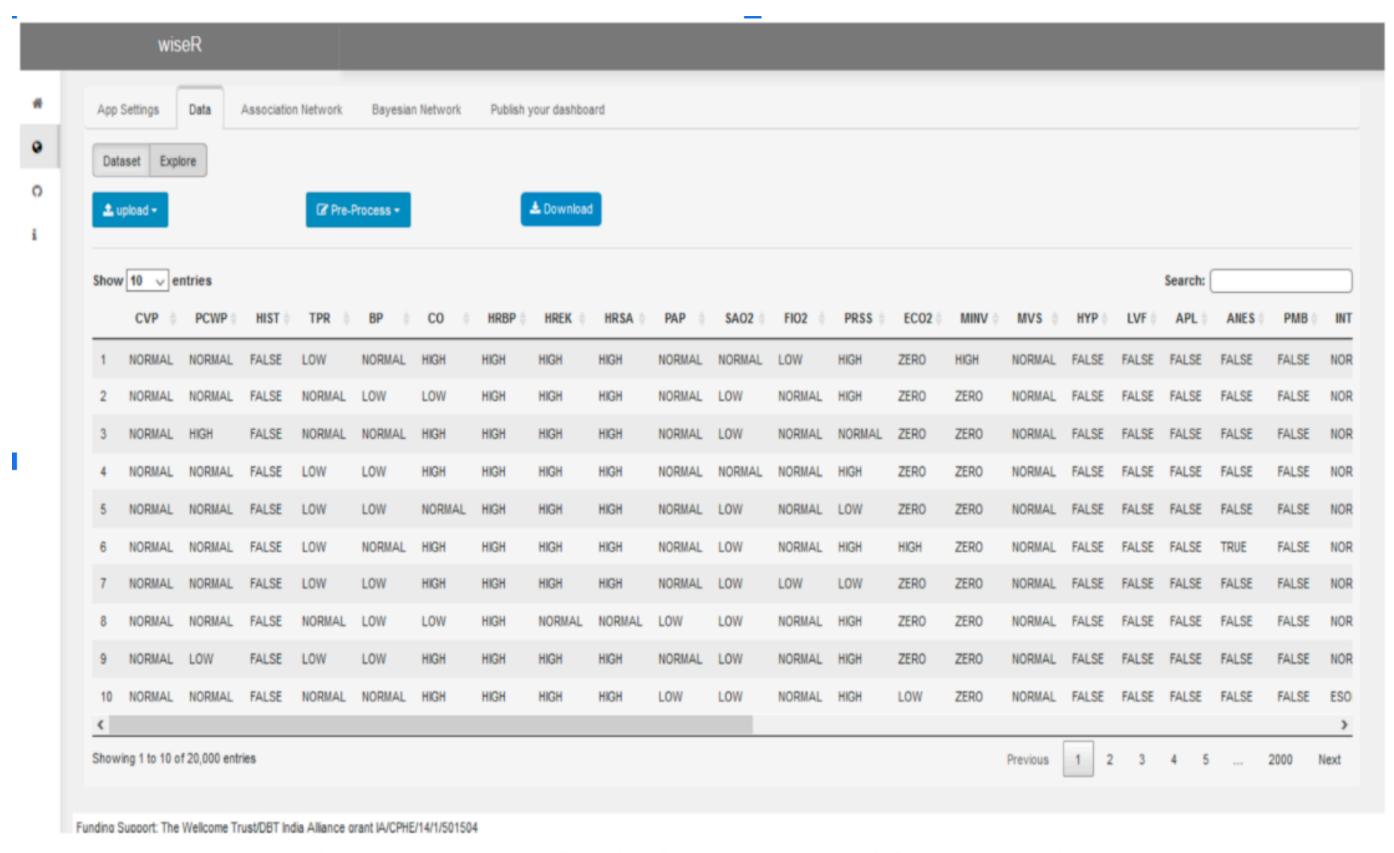
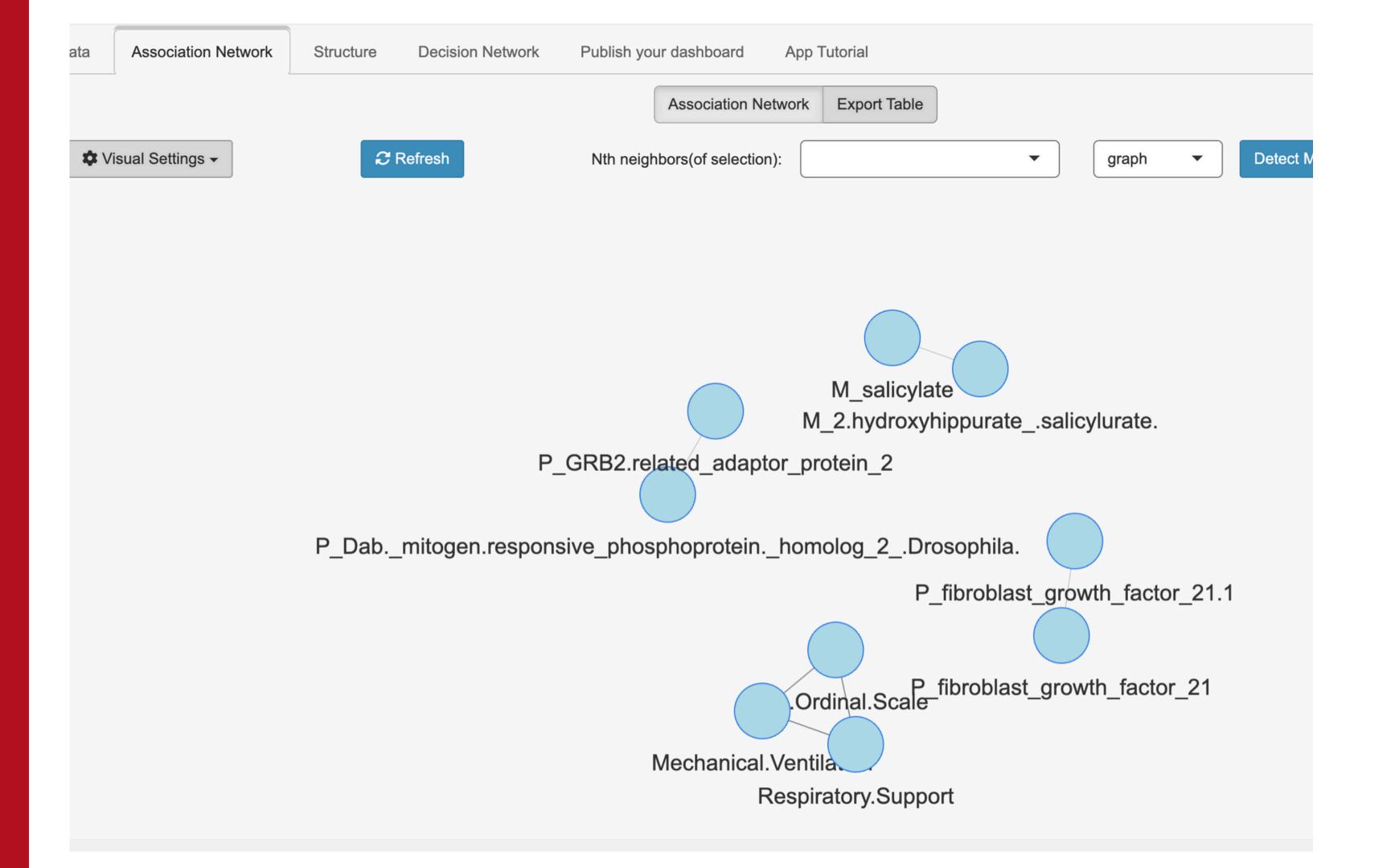


Figure S7. Users can download the pre-processed data as CSV files.

ASSOCIATION NETWORK

ASSOCIATION NETWORK

Before going to Bayesian Network analysis, it is instructive to visualize the association graph constructed upon the data. Learning association networks on the data before Bayesian learning can give useful insights.



STRUCTURE LEARNING SETUP

STRUCTURE LEARNING SETUP

Bayesian Structure Learning was used to uncover probabilistic relationships between variables. We chose the Hill Climbing algorithm for its efficiency and applied Akeike Information Criterion (AIC) for network scoring to balance model complexity and accuracy.

Parameters:

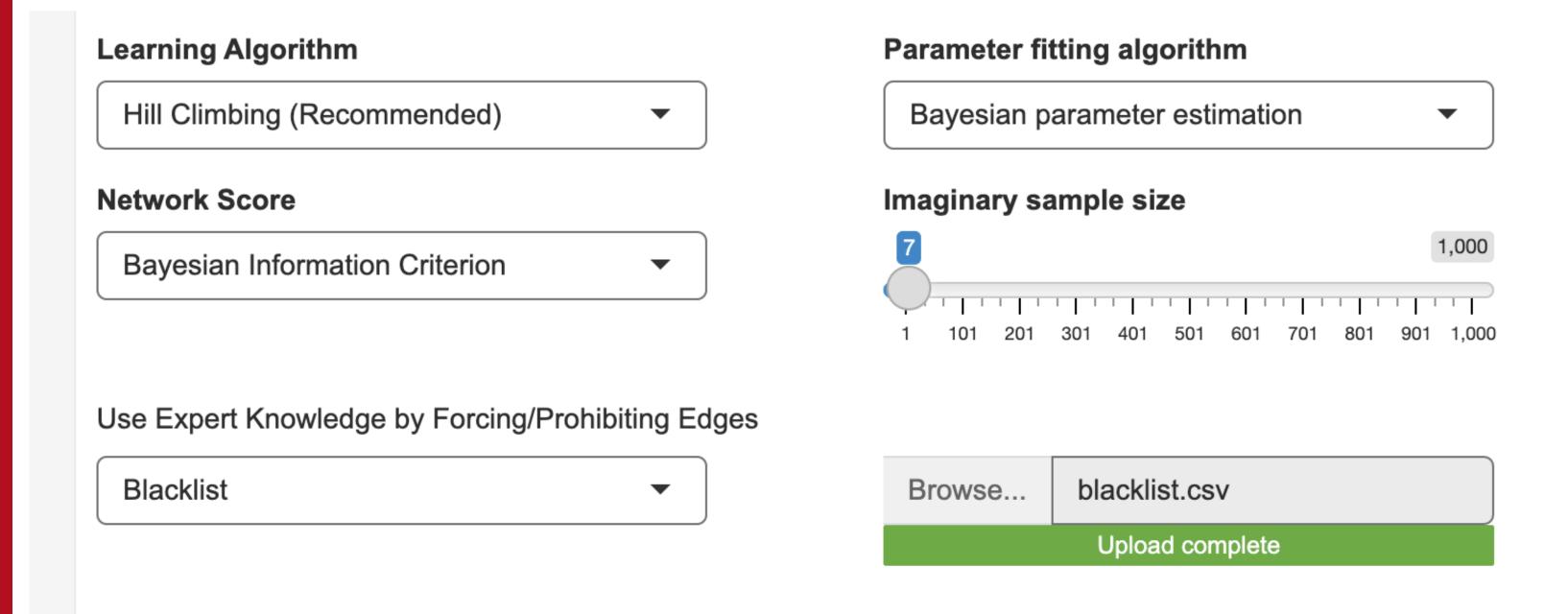
Algorithm: Hill Climbing

Scoring Metric: Akeike Information Criterion (AIC)

Parameter Estimation: Bayesian parameter estimation with an imaginary

sample size for robustness.

Bootstrap Replicates: 51, with edge strength set to 0.51.



Bootstrap without resampling is available only for score-based learning

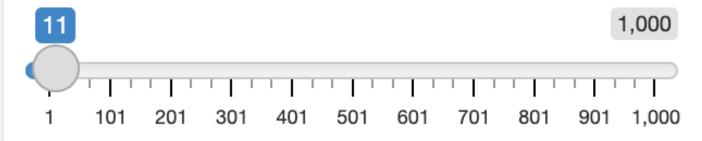
Disable resampling in bootstrap



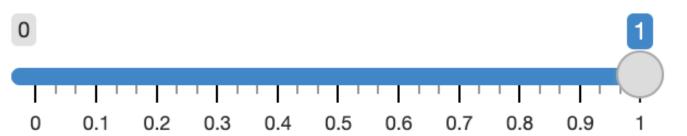
Disable resampling in bootstrap



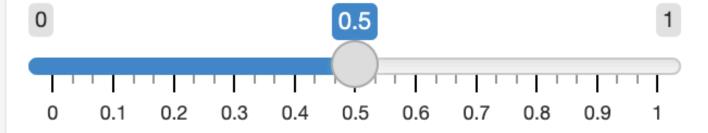
Bootstrap replicates



Proportion of sample for Bootstrap:



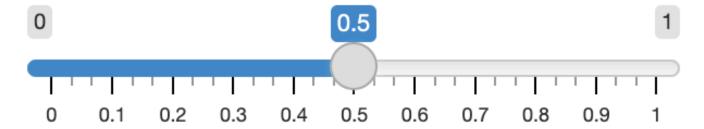
Edge Strength



Bootstrap One-time

Parameter Tuning

Direction Confidence:



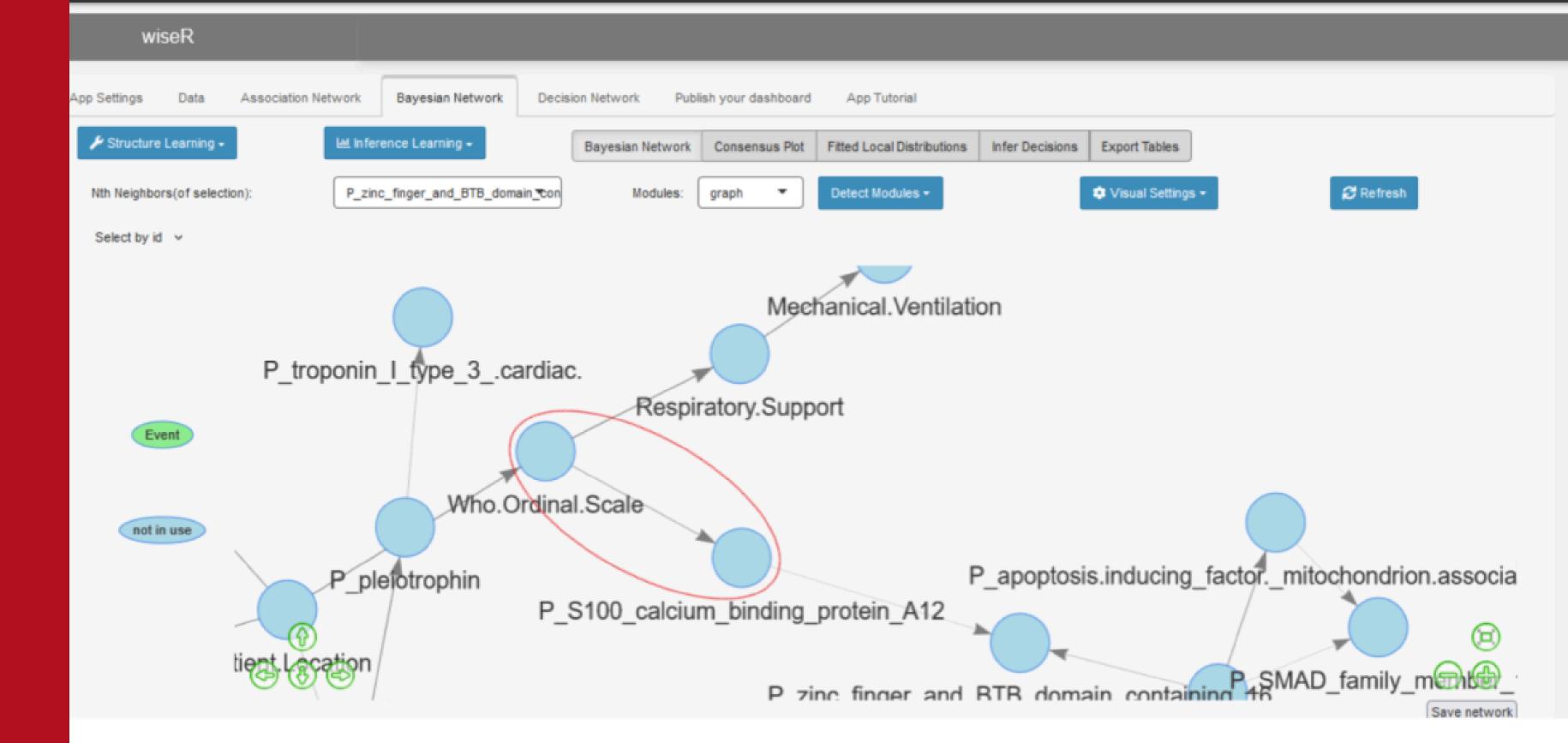
Blacklist Usage

Purpose:

The blacklist.csv file was utilized to restrict certain causal relationships within the network. This allowed us to prevent known irrelevant or non-causal pathways, focusing the network on more meaningful associations.

```
Who.Ordinal.Scale,Sex
Who.Ordinal.Scale, Age
Who.Ordinal.Scale, Ethnicity
Who.Ordinal.Scale, Race
Who.Ordinal.Scale,Cigarette.Smoking
P_interleukin_6_.interferon._beta_2.,Sex
P_fibroblast_growth_factor_21,Sex
P_pleiotrophin, Sex
P_troponin_I_type_3_.cardiac.,Sex
P_natriuretic_peptide_B, Sex
P_interferon._gamma,Sex
P_fibroblast_growth_factor_21.1,Sex
P_growth_hormone_1,Sex
P_Dab._mitogen.responsive_phosphoprotein._homolog_2_.Drosophila.,Sex
P_S100_calcium_binding_protein_A12,Sex
P_calcitonin.related_polypeptide_alpha,Sex
P_chemokine_.C.C_motif._ligand_7,Sex
P_keratin_19,Sex
P_zinc_finger_and_BTB_domain_containing_16,Sex
P_sprouty_homolog_2_.Drosophila.,Sex
P_GRB2.related_adaptor_protein_2,Sex
P_hydroxyacid_oxidase_.glycolate_oxidase._1,Sex
P_SMAD_family_member_1,Sex
P_apoptosis.inducing_factor._mitochondrion.associated._1,Sex
M_salicylate, Sex
M_orotidine, Sex
M_2.hydroxyhippurate_.salicylurate.,Sex
M_erythritol, Sex
M_taurocholate, Sex
Blood.draw.time.point,Sex
Asthma, Sex
```

NETWORK STRUCUTRE VISUALIZATION

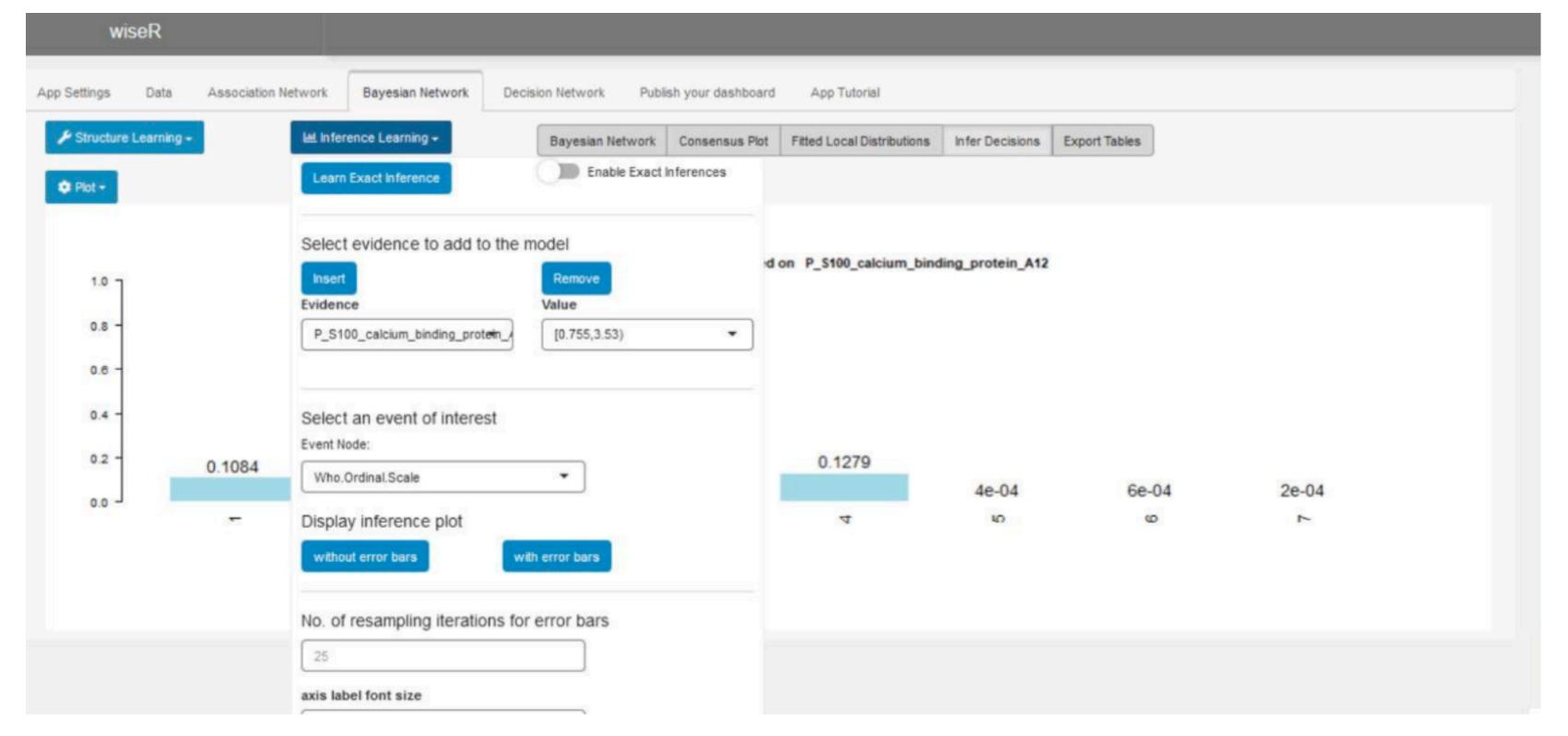


NETWORK STRUCUTRE VISUALIZATION

Result:

The resulting Bayesian network illustrates connections among clinical and biomarker variables, highlighting key nodes such as "Who Ordinal Scale" (WOS) and "S100A12." These markers were identified as significant predictors of COVID-19 severity.

INFERENCE LEARNING & ANALYSIS



Inference Analysis of COVID Severity with S100A12 Markers

S100A12 is a protein marker studied for its correlation with COVID-19 severity. The Who Ordinal Scale (WOS) is used to classify COVID-19 severity, with levels ranging from 1 (mild) to 7 (severe).

wiseR's Bayesian inference feature allows us to set \$100A12 levels as an evidence variable and predict COVID-19 severity.

wiseR

Fig. 7. Lowest Bracket for S100A12 markers indicate high chances of mild covid S100A12 Protein as Evidence of COVID Severity

Low S100A12 Bracket: Indicate that patients with low levels of S100A12 have a high probability of mild cases (severity levels 1-2).

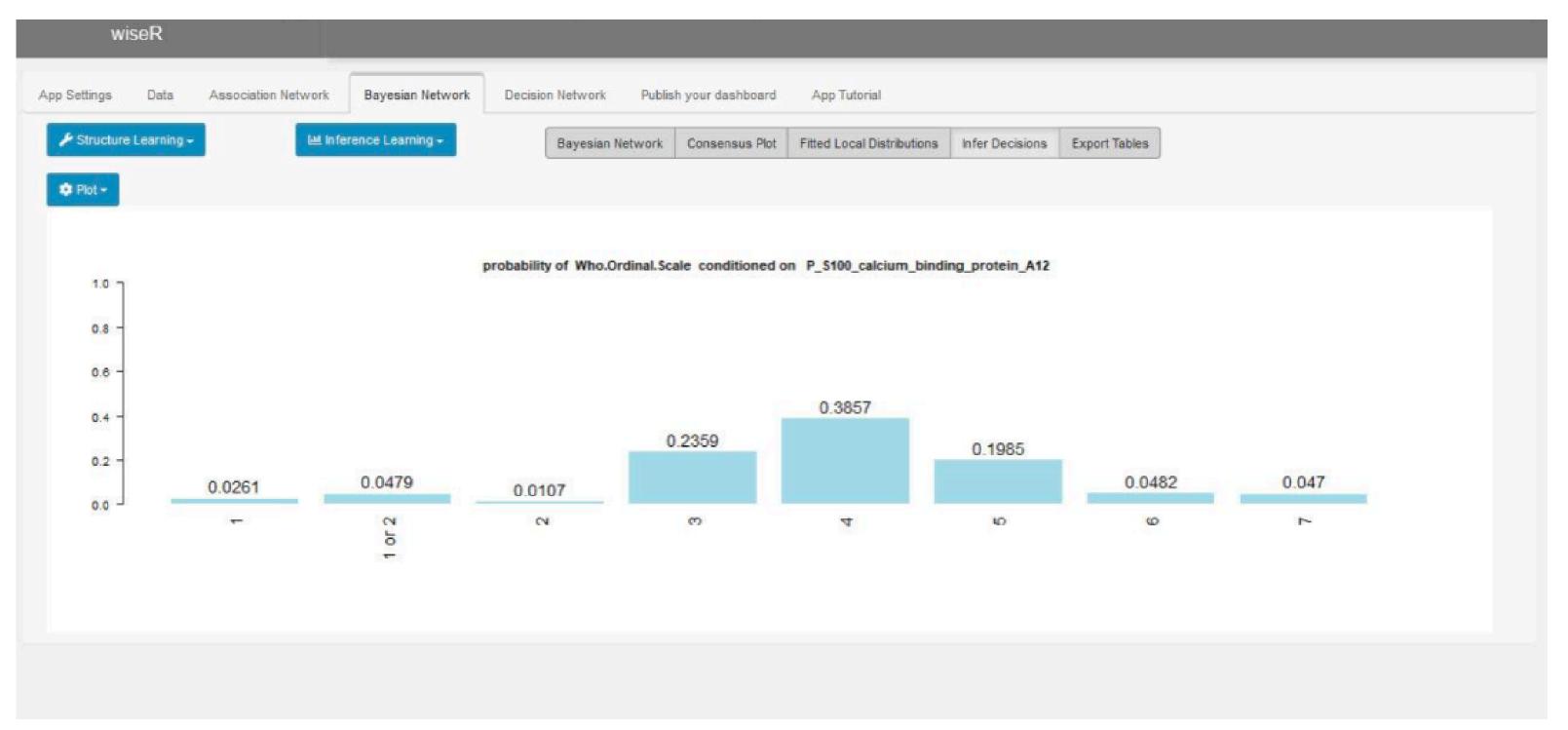


Fig. 8. Middle Bracket for S100A12 markers indicate high chances of moderate to severe covid

S100A12 Protein as Evidence of COVID Severity

Middle S100A12 Bracket: Higher protein levels show a shift toward moderate severity (severity levels 3-5).

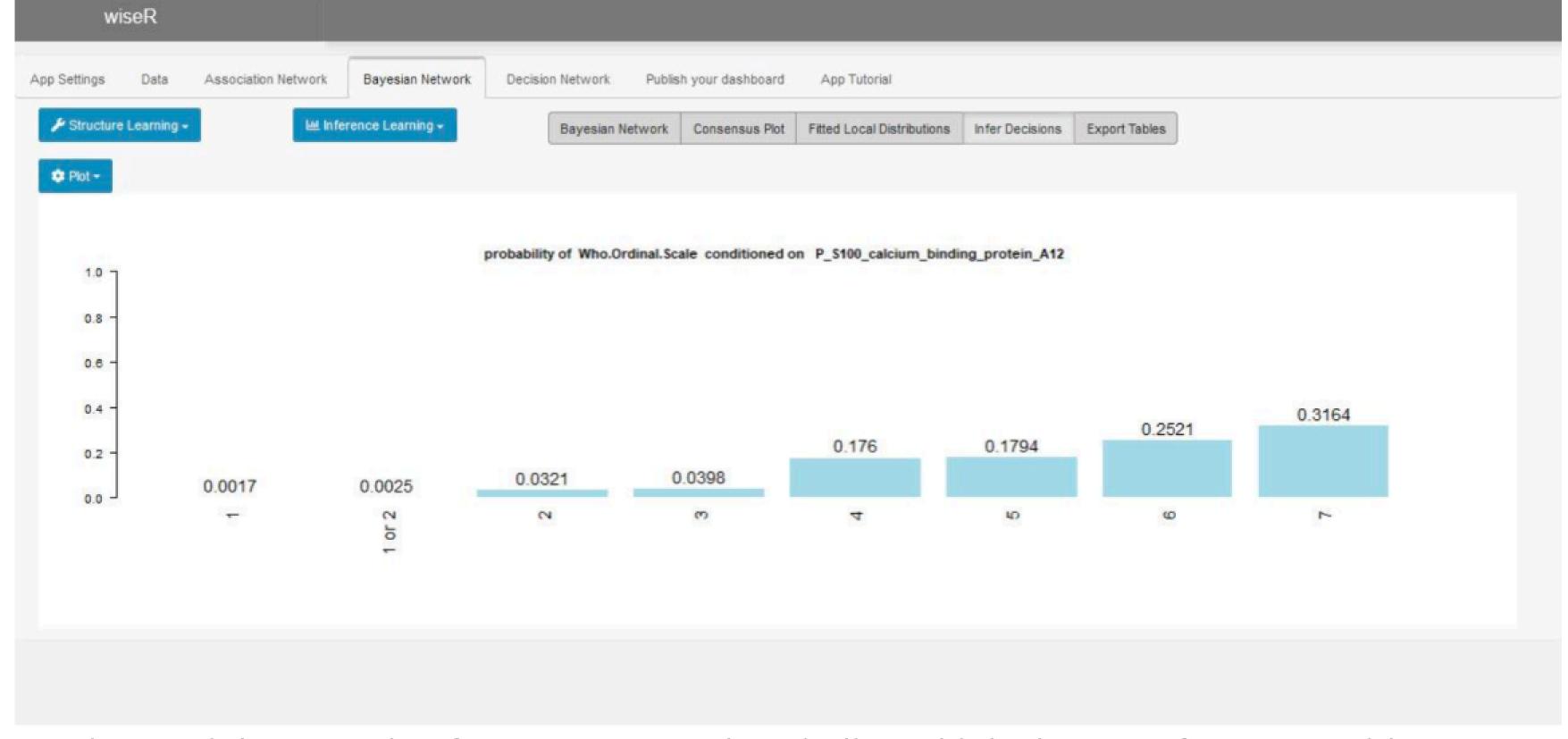


Fig. 9. Highest Bracket for S100A12 markers indicate high chances of severe covid S100A12 Protein as Evidence of COVID Severity

High S100A12 Bracket: The highest bracket corresponds to an increased likelihood of severe COVID cases (severity levels 6-7).

CONCLUSIONS AND KEY INSIGHTS

Observations:

Key Findings: High levels of S100A12 and other protein markers correlated strongly with severe COVID-19 outcomes. This suggests that certain biomarkers can act as reliable predictors for managing patient risk.

Inference Plots: Show plots that illustrate the relationship between biomarkers (like S100A12) and severity likelihood.

Conclusion:

These insights demonstrate the potential for Bayesian networks to inform COVID-19 management by highlighting critical biomarkers associated with severity, supporting clinical triage and resource prioritization.

The results align with Lei (2021), underscoring S100A12's predictive power for COVID severity and the utility of wiseR in healthcare decision-making."

Modifications

Modifications:

We significantly enhanced the original model by optimizing its structure with AIC scoring and the Hill Climbing algorithm, providing a balance between accuracy and complexity.

By using Bayesian parameter estimation, we improved the stability of the network's probability estimates, especially under data sparsity.

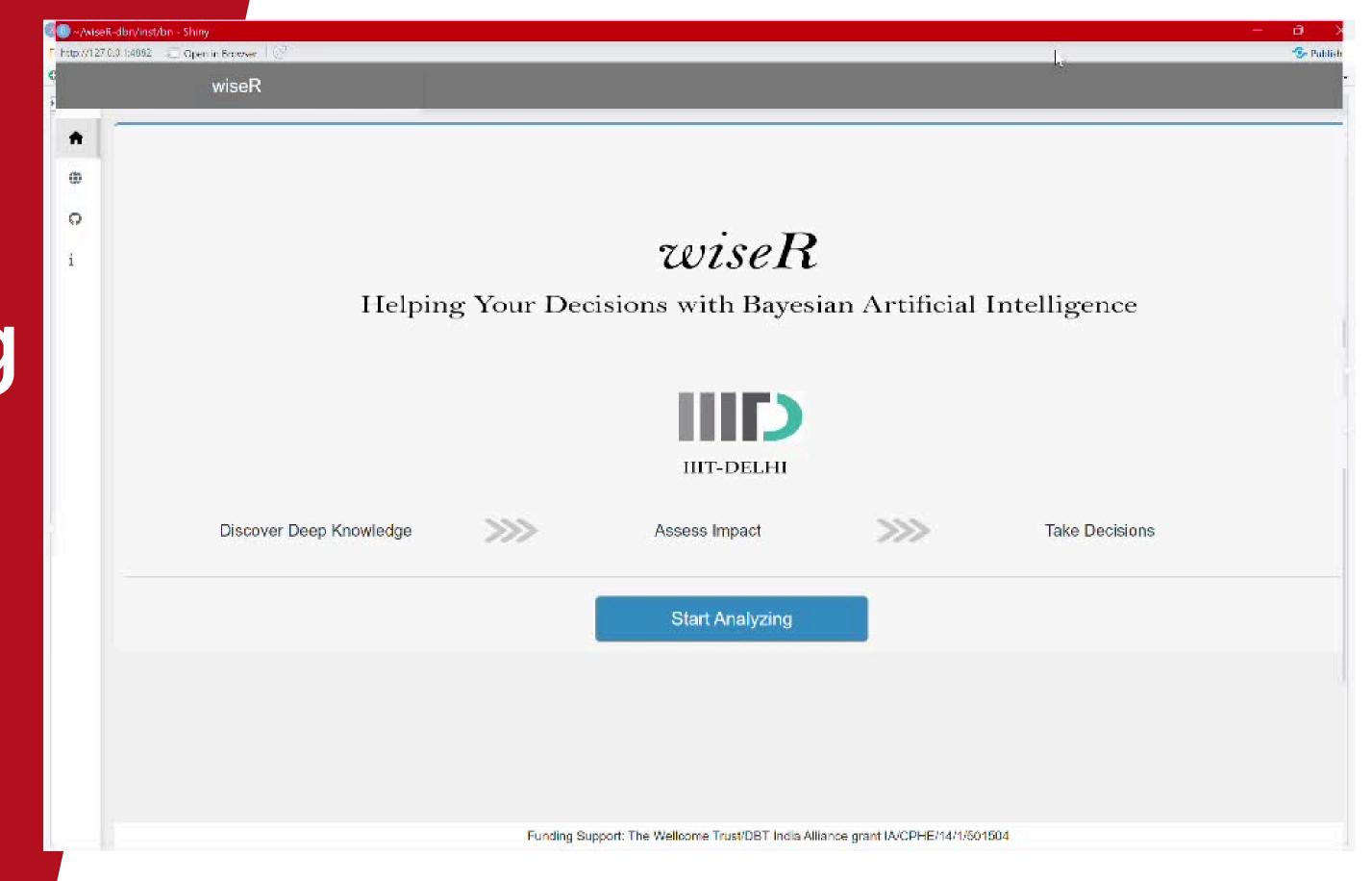
Our extensive evidence testing with S100A12 levels offered in-depth insights into severity prediction. These modifications illustrate wiseR's adaptability and value in healthcare decision-making.

Future Work

Future Improvements:

Future modifications could include expanding the network with additional biomarkers, optimizing the structure learning algorithm, and validating the model on different datasets to improve robustness and generalizability.

Demo Working Video



References:

1.Covid,2021-Gallo Marin B, Aghagoli G, Lavine K, Yang L, Siff EJ, Chiang SS, Salazar-Mather TP, Dumenco L, Savaria MC, Aung SN, Flanigan T, Michelow IC. Predictors of COVID-19 severity: A literature review. Rev Med Virol. 2021 Jan;31(1):1-10. doi: 10.1002/rmv.2146. Epub 2020 Jul 30. PMID: 32845042; PMCID: PMC7855377

2.WiseR- Shubham Maheshwari, Khushbu Pahwa, Tavpritesh Sethi, et al. "WiseR: An end-to-end structure learning and deployment framework for causal graphical models" arXiv:2108.07046, 2021

