

# Jonas:

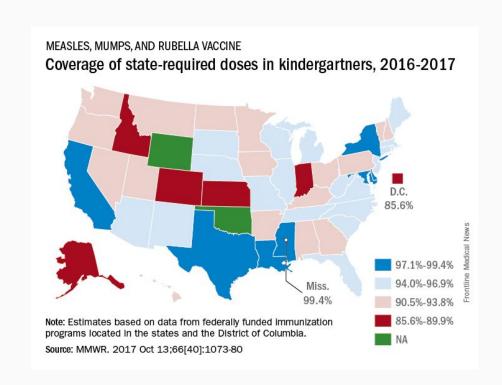
## A Vaccine Concerns Assessment Tool

Aditi Hegde Vivian Lu TK Truong Dili Wang

## Vaccine Hesitancy & The Risks

- Vaccines can save 2 3 million lives per year, but vaccine hesitancy is increasing
- 2 out of 5 American adults express doubts over vaccine safety
- Increased vaccine hesitancy is related to decreased vaccine coverage
- Outbreaks are more likely if vaccine coverage is less than 95%

Vaccines save lives, but vaccine hesitancy puts lives at risk.



## How to Combat Vaccine Hesitancy

Many effective interventions involve patients speaking with their doctors, who have the best authority to counsel them.

#### **Doctors need support in identifying...**

- Vaccine hesitant patients
- Their reasons for vaccine hesitancy

#### The solution needs to...

- Facilitate dialogue between doctor and patient
- Integrate with healthcare workflows

#### Our team has developed Jonas, named after Jonas Salk who developed one of the first polio vaccines

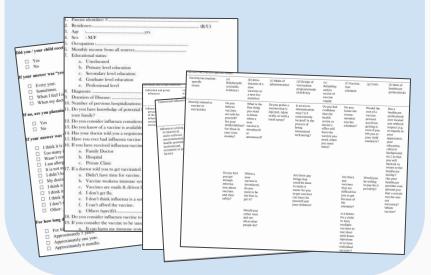




#### Product Differentiation: What Jonas Can Do

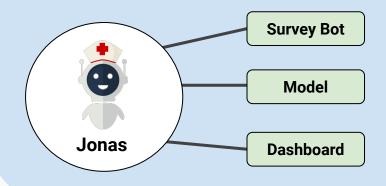
#### Traditional surveys are...

- Long and/or cumbersome to fill out
- Rarely used qualitatively in clinical practice
- Manually assessed



#### Jonas can...

- Assess vaccine hesitancy while keeping the survey experience user-friendly
- Leverage NLP to identify hesitancy reasons
- Populate results to a provider dashboard

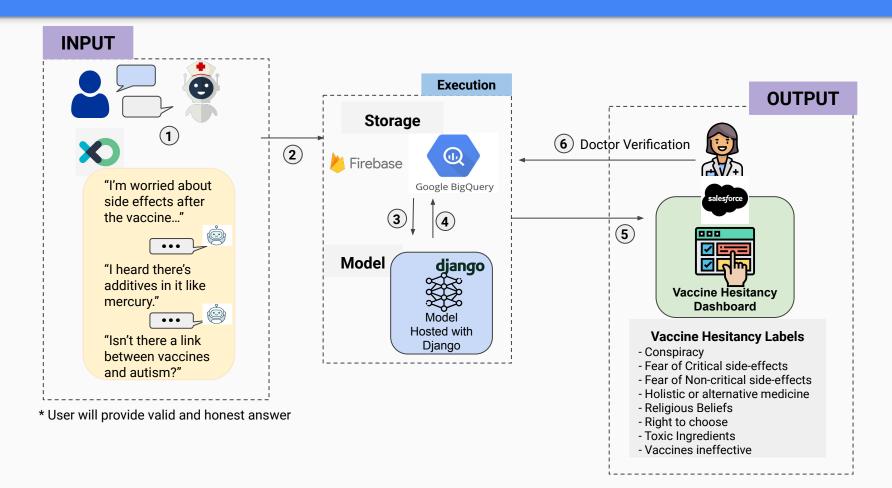




## **Jonas**

A Vaccine Concerns Assessment Tool

## **Technical Approach**



## **Dataset Processing**

#### Part I: Data Cleansing

- Remove links, special characters
- Retain stopwords

#### **Part II: Augmentation**

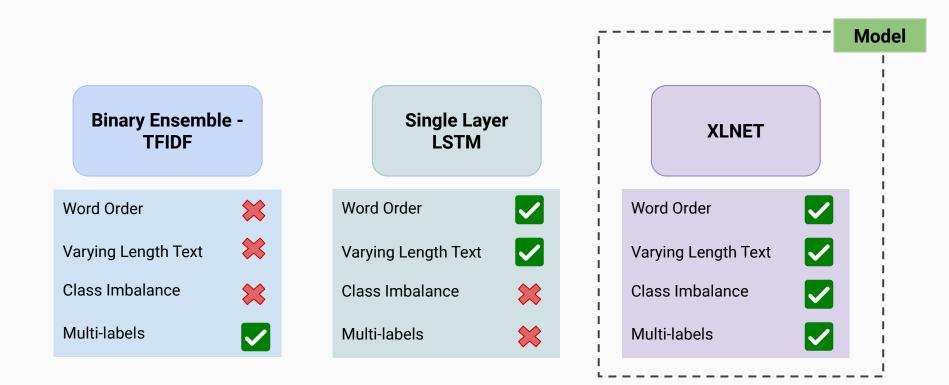
- Generate synthetic and extra text samples by word embedding (GloVe) similarities.
  - See Github for <u>nlpauq</u>
- Original:

"I do not have any concerns with vaccine safety. I know some people think they cause autism but that is crazy"

Augmented:

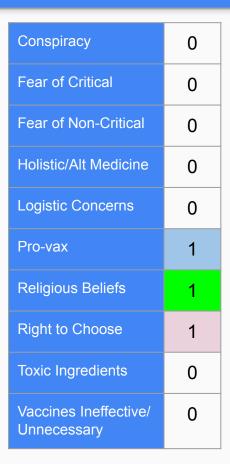
"I do not people any concerns with vaccine safety . I know some people think probably problems dysfunction but that is crazy"

## **Model Selection**



#### Evaluation: Model - XLNet

"Although I do believe in getting vaccinated, just for really deadly and contagious ones. You shouldn't make the decision for everyone else to get sick. You harm other people by being part of the problem. However, if there are side effects and it's like for a cold or something, I don't believe in it, just like I am on anyone's side if they decide not to get vaccinated because of their religion. I have very deep religion beliefs as well."



#### **Problems Encountered**

- Varying text length lends to multi-labels
- Labels are also not mutually exclusive



What scoring/loss function to use?

#### **Evaluation: Model - XLNet**

## Hamming's (edit) Distance:

The minimum number of substitutions required to change one string (vector) into the other.

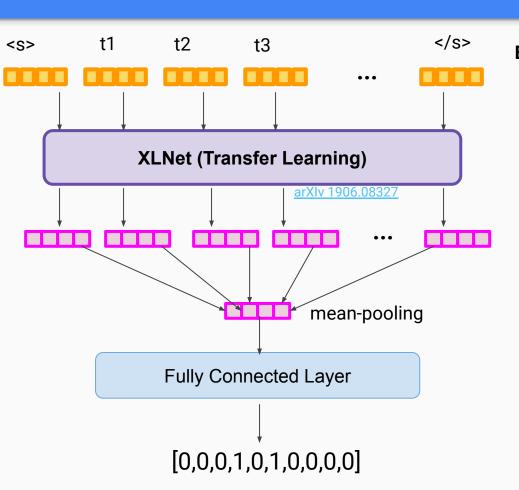
## **Hamming Distance = 2**

(Objective: Minimize Hamming Distance to 0)

#### **Solves:**

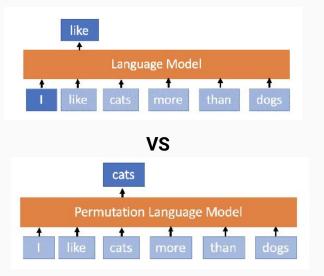
- → Avoid false/over penalization as in one vs. all (binary) models.
- → Reward for getting partial labels correct.
- → Avoid conversion problems/having to tune for too many classes as in one vs. all (binary) models.

#### **Evaluation: Model - XLNet**



#### **Benefits of XLNet over BERT:**

- Permutation Language Modeling
  - No [MASK] token
  - Predict tokens in random order to model bidirectional dependencies.



Source: mlexplained

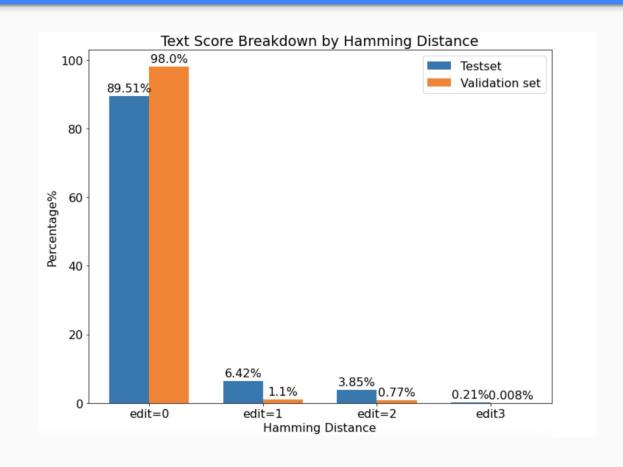
## Evaluation: Model - XLNet - Error Analysis

**Test set:** 467 text samples

Hamming Distance	Raw Count	Percentage (%)
0	418	89.51%
1	30	6.42%
2	18	3.85%
3	1	0.21%

#### Validation set: 12,493 text samples

Hamming Distance	Raw Count	Percentage (%)
0	12,259	98%
1	137	1.1%
2	96	0.77%
3	1	0.008%



### Evaluation: Model - XLNet - Error Analysis

#### What works great...

Single sentiments (single labels)

"yes. i think they are completely fine"

"Only my personal concerns of giving multiple medications at a single time."

Fear of critical side effects

Provax

Logistic Concerns

Multi-labeling -> catch more context

"I think for the most part vaccines are safe. They've helped to save a lot of people. On the other hand, though, I do think there are harmful side effects. I truly believe that some vaccines increase the risk of autism and other disorders in kids."

- Pro-vax

#### What works not so great...

Short/ambiguous text (<=4 words)</li>

"I think they should"

"None, absolutely NONE!"

#### Surprise?

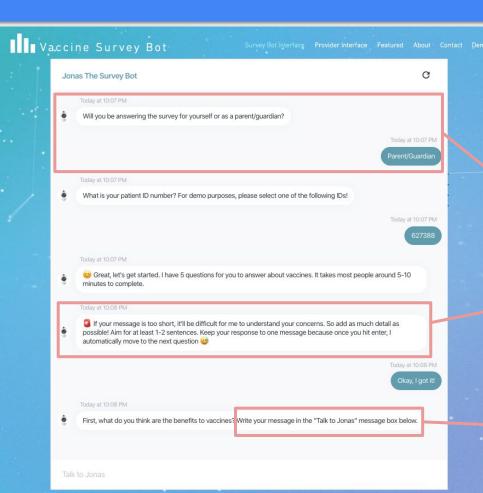
"no. but they are a necessary evil"

- <u>Truth</u>: Irrelevant

- <u>Predicted</u>: Vaccines are ineffective/un necessary "I feel like it's your choice, but I would side with everyone getting vaccinated. I think it could be pretty careless not to."

<u>Truth</u>: Provax
 <u>Predicted</u>: Provax,
 Right to Choose

## **Evaluation: Bot User Experience**



#### **Bot UX Questionnaire**

- What additional feature would you have liked to see?
- What instructions were missing?
- What are your pain points?

#### Parent/Guardian vs Self Question

Conditional questions will be a future direction

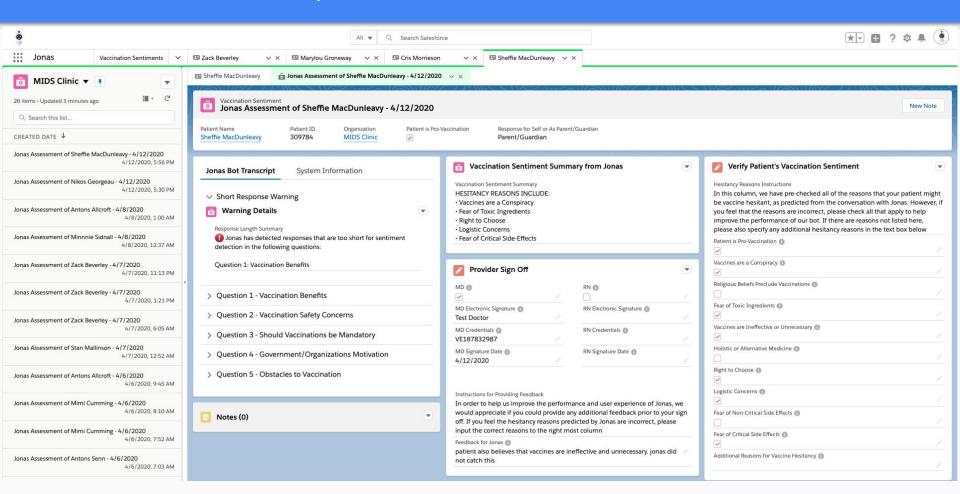
#### **Longer Text requirements**

- Response lengths shorter than surveys but less emotional than tweets
- Add additional features in Salesforce to highlight shorter text warning

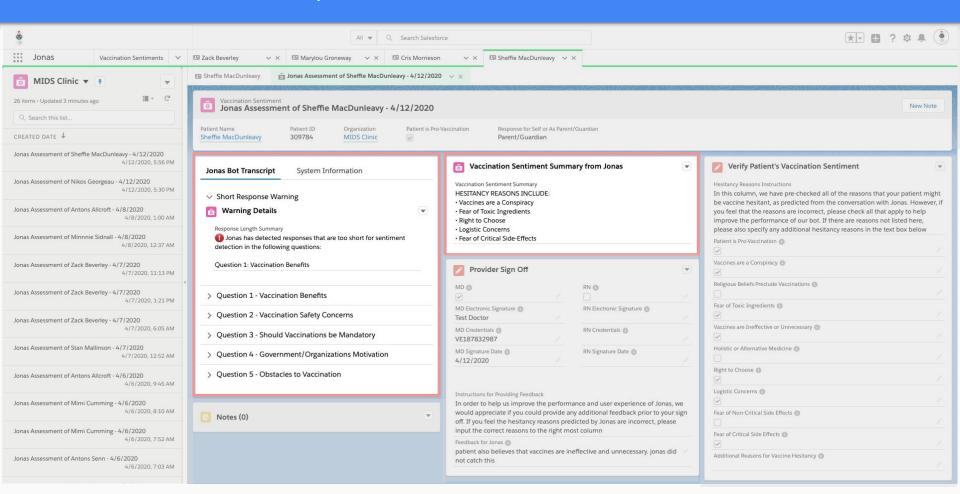
#### White chat window is difficult to see

- Dark background
- Additional instructions for user to type free responses

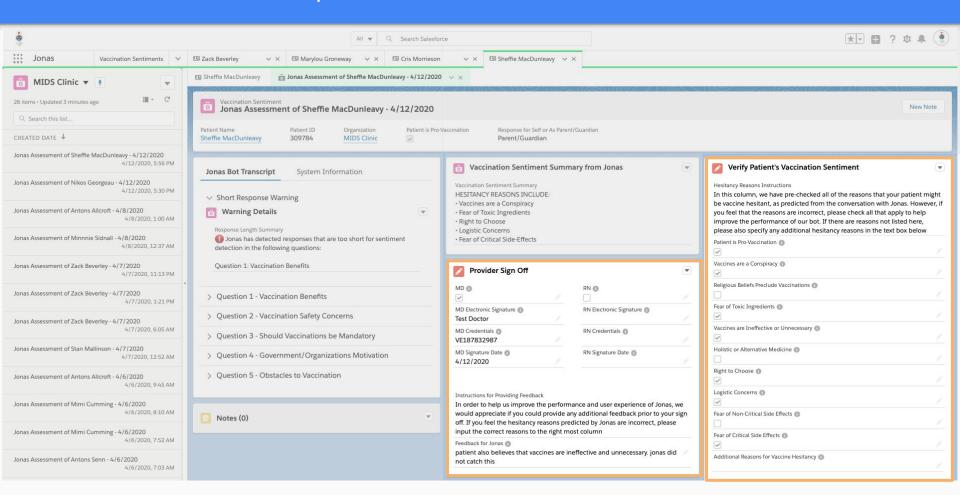
## **Evaluation: Provider User Experience**



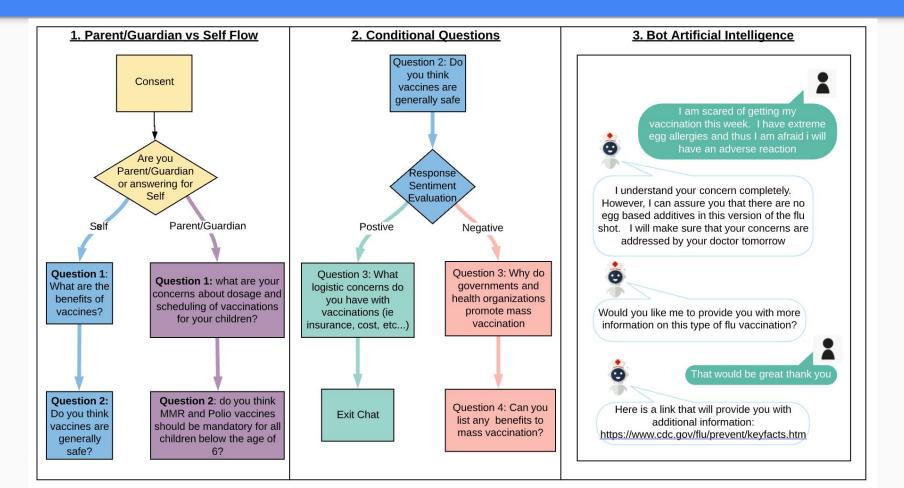
## **Evaluation: Provider User Experience**



### **Evaluation: Provider User Experience**



## **Areas for Development**



#### Lessons Learned

#### More specific labels

- Minimize "gray area" leads to mitigate bias
- Rigorous multi-labelling
- Entity extraction if more time

Assess model flexibility on text length

- Collect more surveys
- Collect more bot transcripts

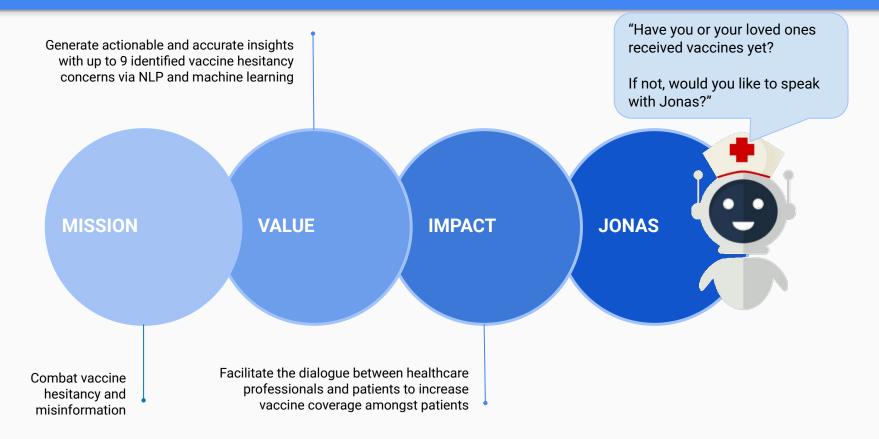
My feeling is that vaccines shouldn't be required by government. I prefer the body should fight the virus on its own. Fatal virus' should be vaccinated against

I have heard that there are strange additives in vaccines that may have long term effects on children, such as autism and brain damage. I am concerned that certain vaccines are not fully tested. It concerns me that a vaccination puts toxic ingredients into my body.

- Right to Choose
- Provax
- Vaccines are Ineffective/Unnecessary
- Alternative or Holistic Medicine

- Fear of Toxic Ingredients Strange Additives
- Fear of Critical Side-Effects Autism
- Fear of Critical Side-Effects Brain Damage

## Wrap up



Disclaimer: Jonas is not a substitute for a professional medical provider. Please see your personal doctor to discuss prior medical history and/or concerns. Jonas protects and respects your information and privacy; no personally identifiable information will be asked or shared with your doctor.