Registration

# $50,000 BANNER Challenge

The millions of biomedical publications that exist are a valuable, but difficult to handle resource. Identifying those documents that are most relevant to particular diseases is currently a costly, human intensive activity. The Scripps Research Institute, together with the NASA Tournament Lab at Harvard, is launching a contest to develop new algorithms to aid in the automated Named Entity Recognition (NER) of biomedical publications.

The goal of this contest is to develop an algorithm to generate keywords based on the occurrence of specific entities such as genes, proteins, diseases, as well as the analysis of natural language text of publication abstracts. A large set of manually annotated abstracts has been created to aid in algorithm development and scoring. Full problem details can be found at [EXTERNAL LINK].

To participate, entrants are required to register for the contest between [DATE REGISTRATION START] and [DATA REGISTRATION END].

# Contest Format

Registration is limited to 350 Top Coder members. Only members with some experience in at least one Top Coder competition (either MM or ALGO) are eligible to participate.

This is an experimental contest format and thus will be an unrated event.

A total of $50,000 in prizes will be distributed to competitors in the following manner.

$35,000 will be distributed in the form of room prizes to the winners in virtual competition rooms of no more than 14 participants. Additional $15,000 will be distributed in the form of grand prizes to the best performers across rooms.

The exact rules to determine the winners can differ across rooms. Some rooms will have a competition similar to a FirstToFinish contest and others will have a more traditional MM competition. At the end of the registration phase, we will send an email to all participants with an accurate description of the competition rules.

As part of the experimental contest format, participating in this contest also involves participating in a research project. Your participation is voluntary. If you choose to participate, you will need to complete two surveys: a registration survey and a final survey. You may discontinue your participation at any time.

The data collected, including survey responses, analysis of code submissions, and communications on the public forum of the challenge, will be used for research purposes. The substance of your survey responses will not affect your eligibility for winning a prize in this or future contests.

Only the immediate project team at TopCoder and researchers at Harvard University will see your individual data. Data will only be shared in an anonymous form in which individuals cannot be identified.

If you have any questions about the use of your information, please contact: [CONTACT PERSON]. Harvard University has a Standing Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research (CUHS) to which complaints or problems concerning any research project may, and should, be reported if they arise.

Communications After Registration

# Competition Rules for the Race

Dear [HANDLE],

Thanks for your interest in this competition.

**You have been assigned to a room where the goal is to be the first to achieve a final score greater than [SCORE THRESHOLD].**

The first 2 coders to achieve a score greater than [SCORE THRESHOLD] will be awarded room prizes of $1,000 and $400 to the first and the second respectively. No prizes will be awarded if no submission reaches a score of at least [SCORE THRESHOLD].

You will be also competing for additional grand prizes distributed as follows:

1. $3,000 to be the first to achieve a score greater than [SCORE THRESHOLD]
2. $1,500 to be the second to achieve a score greater than [SCORE THRESHOLD]
3. $500 to be the third to achieve a score greater than [SCORE THRESHOLD].

So you can win up to $4,000.

At each submission, Top Coder will compute your final scores in addition to the partial scores. The final scores are not going to be shown on the leaderboard which displays the usual things (partial scores, temporary ranking, etc.).

As soon as a competitor in your room achieves a final score greater than [SCORE THRESHOLD], Top Coder will send an email to all room members to communicate that the first room prize has been awarded, but the second room prize is still available. The same happens when a second competitor achieves a final score greater than [SCORE THRESHOLD], and the competition is over.

Note, you are not allowed to discuss any of the details of your competition room with other members of the community during the 2 weeks of the competition.

For any question please contact [PERSON CONTACT].

# Competition Rules for the Tournament

Dear [HANDLE],

Thanks for your interest in this competition.

**You have been assigned to a room where the goal of the competition is to achieve the best final score.**

The top 2 coders to achieve the highest final scores will be awarded room prizes of $1,000 and $400 to the first and the second respectively.

You will be also competing for additional grand prizes distributed as follows:

1. $3,000 to achieve the highest score across all rooms.
2. $1,500 to achieve the second highest final score across all rooms.
3. $500 to achieve the second highest final score across all rooms.

So you can win up to $4,000.

Note, you are not allowed to discuss any of the details of your competition room with other members of the community during the 2 weeks of the competition.

For any question please contact [PERSON CONTACT].

# Competition Rules for the Tournament w/ reserve

Dear [HANDLE],

Thanks for your interest in this competition.

**You have been assigned to a room where the goal of the competition is to achieve the best final score, but only submissions with a final score of at least [SCORE THRESHOLD] can be awarded a prize.**

The top 2 coders to achieve the highest final scores will be awarded room prizes of $1,000 and $400 to the first and the second respectively. Only submissions that score at least [SCORE THRESHOLD] are eligible for prizes. No prizes will be awarded if no submissions reaches a score of at least [SCORE THRESHOLD].

You will be also competing for additional grand prizes distributed as follows:

1. $3,000 to achieve the highest score across all rooms, being of at least [SCORE THRESHOLD].
2. $1,500 to achieve the second highest final score across all rooms, being of at least [SCORE THRESHOLD].
3. $500 to achieve the second highest final score across all rooms, being of at least [SCORE THRESHOLD].

So you can win up to $4,000.

Note, you are not allowed to discuss any of the details of your competition room with other members of the community during the 2 weeks of the competition.

For any question please contact [PERSON CONTACT].