# $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

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

All registered participants will be randomly divided into competition rooms of no more than 10-12 participants.

A total of $25,000 will be distributed in the form of room prizes to the winners in virtual competition rooms. The remaining $15,000 will be distributed in the form of grand prizes to the winners across rooms.

The rules to determine the winners and to award the prizes 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.

# Competition Details

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: Jin Paik (jin.paik@fas.harvard.edu). 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.