Overview of a System that Learns How to Selectively Highlight Information in an EMR

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Electronic medical record (EMR) systems are being widely used in both inpatient and outpatient settings in the U.S. The patterns of their use provide a rich base on which to develop new forms of clinical decision support. We have developed and implemented a system that applies machine learning to model the patterns of EMR usage over time. When a clinician visits an EMR record, the system applies those models to highlight information in the record that the clinician is predicted to view. We hypothesize that such data-driven highlighting will decrease the amount of time that clinicians require to use the EMR system while still providing high quality clinical care. This talk describes a prototype version of such a learning EMR system and preliminary results of evaluating it.

Gregory Cooper, M.D., Ph.D. is Professor of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses on the application of probabilistic modeling, machine learning, Bayesian statistics, and artificial intelligence to address biomedical informatics problems. Current research projects include causal modeling and discovery of biomedical knowledge from large datasets, learning electronic medical record systems, machine-learning-based clinical alerting, computer-aided medical diagnosis and prediction, and methods for detecting and characterizing infectious disease outbreaks.

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