
PAULA BRAUN

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Required Skills:

Human Centered Design, Project Management, Communications.

Secondary Skills: Mobile App Development, Web Development, Responsive Web Design, Technical Writing

Preferred Team

Communications:

Webex and Conference Call

Data Sources:

Georgia Tech synthetic data will be sufficient for the project.

Other Items:

Project has timezone flexibility. Mentors and students will determine a good time for virtual meeting

This project is high-profile and will help inform the national dialogue around how access to data can help address evolving health threats

SIMPLIFYING ACCESS TO DATA FROM DECEDENTS' HEALTH RECORDS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS

After sudden, unexpected, or violent deaths occur, such as fatalities due to natural causes, drug overdoses, motor vehicle accidents, homicides, and suicides, medical examiner and coroner (ME/C) offices rely on data collected from a variety of sources—including but not limited to medical health records—to triage cases, focus examinations (both inspections and autopsies) and laboratory testing, and help determine cause and manner of death. Investigative, autopsy, and laboratory findings often need to be interpreted in the context of clinical histories. The challenge to ME/Cs is that medical records are provided inconsistently, if at all, and the burden falls on ME/C offices to employ an often arduous process to obtain information that is essential to the provision of healthcare.

Delays in access to decedents' health records can often prolong autopsy report completion and death certification. Delays may also lead to excessive waste in cases where timely access to medical record information would have allowed the ME/C to perform a simpler examination. Nonetheless, in large parts of the country, many medicolegal death investigation offices access decedents' medical records via fax requests or by assigning personnel to pick up paper copies from healthcare providers.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Develop a prototype, FHIR-based tool that will allow medicolegal death investigation offices to

- o identify where the decedent's health records are located (e.g., which hospitals and primary care offices) and
- o access relevant information from the decedent's health record needed for the medicolegal death investigation

SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

The project mentors will provide expertise in forensic pathology. Together, the project team will help to define common bundles of information requested during medicolegal death investigations and scenarios under which additional information would likely be requested. The OMSCS students will take a human-centered

Intellectual Property: Project involves a government agency so the resulting project is made available to the public. Students do not own IP. Students will be recognized as contributors.

design approach and build out a prototype tool (that could run on a smartphone, tablet, or website) to help facilitate more timely access to the information medicolegal death investigation offices need.
