UNITED
HEALTH
FUTURES

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY
TRENDS ANALYSIS: DIGITAL HEALTH AND BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATIONS

Background

United Health Futures (UHF) is a consulting company working on sustainable planetary health initiatives. It is composed of a world class team of academics, designers, entrepreneurs, policy makers, technologists, and strategists. UHF mission is to support the development of planetary health initiatives dedicated to the public interest while supporting social and environmental sustainability. The application of digital technologies to improve accessibility and quality of health is one of the areas of UHF's work. Innovative digital solutions, including those based on the blockchain technology are particularly important at a time when all health systems face economic challenges and greater demands to provide expanded quality care, especially to those most in need. Therefore, UHF is looking for an intern to support its research on digital health and to help explore the relevance of blockchain technology for promoting more equitable access to health, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Description of duties

The intern will work with UHF team to:

-   Conduct a scoping analysis / mapping of existing blockchain applications in health with a focus on identifying major gaps, opportunities, and challenges. This will involve both a broad high-level analysis as well as deeper research on some of the government-led initiatives (e.g. Estonia's digital health system for patient records and medicine prescription), and private sector projects (e.g. Medicalchain, Robomed, etc.);
-   Research on selected use cases, including (but not limited to) blockchain applications for provision of preventive health services and for patient empowerment through de-centralised health management and monitoring (with particular focus on use cases for LMICs);
-   Conduct an overview of digital health projects that involve the use of cryptocurrencies as incentives for healthy behaviours / lifestyles. This will include analysis of existing evidence and scientific studies on effectiveness and uptake of such initiatives;
-   Conduct broader research on trends in digital health and provide support to the UHF team in keeping track of relevant projects and developments.
-   Support development of knowledge products (e.g. reports, presentation) and online content (e.g. blogs) featuring information about blockchain applications in health to showcase UHF's research in the area;
-   Other research and administrative tasks related to the core focus of the internship.

Objectives

Key objectives

1. To identify and analyse recent developments and trends in blockchain application in health;

2. To help UHF formulate a vision and strategy in relation to blockchain applications in health and other innovative digital health solutions.

Education
- Studying or completed Master's program in public health, medical sciences, information technology, computer science, or a related field;
- Applications from students pursuing degrees in other domains may also be considered if applicants are able to demonstrate relevant knowledge and skills;

Competencies
- Excellent quantitative and qualitative analysis skills;
- Demonstrated ability to collect and synthesize information from a diverse range of sources;
- Strong interest in public health and digital technologies (blockchain);
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision;
- Strong attention to detail;
- Background knowledge of blockchain and its applications is an advantage;
- Experience in working as research project assistant is desirable.

Internship duration
12 weeks, starting October 2021.

Stipend
For the performance of duties described above to the satisfaction of the UHF's management, the intern will receive a stipend of 100 USD per week.

Organization location
Remote work. The placement will be carried out remotely and UHF will provide ongoing support to the intern throughout the placement. The intern will take part in meetings with the UHF team using MS Teams and/or Zoom.

Application process
To apply, please send your **CV** and a **300 word statement** addressing why you would be a suitable candidate to info@uhf.ch by **15 October 2021**.