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Blockchain for advancing precision medicine and drug discovery through genomic data storage and analysis

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With the costs of pharmaceutical development sky rocketing, companies are looking for new ways to innovate, obtain insights and cut R&D costs. The use of biomarkers can dramatically improve success rates for drug development and genomics and multi omics data are the next steps in precision medicine and effective drug discovery. However, current data sets are often lacking in information, may be inaccessible and numerous gaps exist that need to be filled and this information needs to be transformed into formats that are useful for pharma companies. Work need to be done to obtain the right genomic data, efficiently combine this data with phenotypic and peripheral health data and properly analyzing it to deliver value. Blockchain technology is a tool that can be used to effectively manage patient data, including genomic sequences, such that data silos can be broken, interoperability and collaboration can be increased and novel insights can be delivered to provide effective solutions. Here, cases will be introduced for the implementation of blockchain in a precision medicine ecosystem and describes how both pharma and patients can benefit from gaining access to such data.

Biography

Natalie Pankova holds a PhD from the Faculty of Medicine from University of Toronto, where her work was focused on inflammatory disease and retinal degeneration. Additionally she worked on advanced diagnostics and precision medicine strategies, which turned into a career in biotech and drug development, where she was a Director in early stage healthcare startups. She is now Chief Scientific Officer at Shivom, a global genomics blockchain company focused on advancing precision medicine by enriching and improving the currently limited and siloed genomic data. She is also the global lead for the genomic research working group within the government blockchain association.

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