Metadata Patent - Invitation to the Entire Health Care Community To Participate

Last month CDISC sent a letter to many of its members alerting them to a potentially damaging and costly patent application which is currently under review by the United States Patent Office. The text of the letter is below and was prompted in part by a thread on Linkedin which can be found here.

The jist of the patent is this: a company, DataSci, filed a patent application in 2009 that effectively patents the use of metadata in clinical research. If this patent is granted there is a real possibility that a fee will be due to the patent holder for any use of metadata over the internet for every study done by any BioPharmaceutical company, academic research institution, government agency – basically ANY clinical research. See the original email below for more details and links that provide additional information.

Almost immediately after the email went out CDISC was contacted by Pharmaceutical, Biotech, Government, CRO and Technology company representatives asking how they could help prevent this patent from being approved. Most have forwarded the original email to their legal counsel and are looking into the process to protest this patent. Several of the large Pharma companies are also discussing how to combine efforts to fight this patent application.

CDISC appreciates all this effort and the support shown by our members. We will periodically update this blog with the status of these efforts. Follow the link to read the original email with further details and related links.