The CLPsych organizers gratefully acknowledge the support from the following sponsors.

Silver

Bronze

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Introduction
Introduction

Mental health is a pressing concern. Worldwide, mental health conditions are among the leading causes of disability [3, 7], and the global economic cost of mental health issues between 2011 and 2030, including neurological and substance use disorders, is projected to be more than $16 trillion [1]. In the U.S. in 2020, suicide was in the top nine leading causes of death for people ages 10-64, and the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 25-34 [2]. Over the past several years, COVID-19 has created additional challenges to mental health. For instance, Sheridan et al. [5] found that suicide attempts in young children 10-12 have increased more than five-fold between 2010 and 2020. Furthermore, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy in 2021 called for a nationwide response to the mental health crisis that youth especially are facing during the pandemic [4].

For the Eighth Workshop on Computational Linguistics and Clinical Psychology (CLPsych), we adopt the theme "mental health in the face of change". This includes the kind of aspects natural language processing technologies need to address to deliver explainable and fair solutions that can be integrated in the clinical setting. Additionally, how these solutions can capture changes in mood over longitudinal and temporal data, which has been the focus of this year’s shared task.

CLPsych was a hybrid workshop that accommodated both in-person and remote participation. It was collocated with NAACL’22, which took place in Seattle, Washington, USA on July 15th, 2022. Since 2014, CLPsych has been successful in bringing together people from different backgrounds (e.g. mental health experts, clinicians, and computational linguists), to share and discuss their work and results. Its central goal is to build bridges so that these different disciplines can integrate to improve our understanding of mental health issues, and to deliver better mental health treatments and diagnoses to everybody.

CLPsych’22 included a shared task that focused on using longitudinal data to understand mood changes and relate them to risk assessment for suicidality. The shared task was organized by Adam Tsakalidis, Federico Nanni, and Maria Liakata. The overview of the shared task in this volume [6] discusses the tasks, team approaches and results, and lessons learned.

Our program committee included mental health and technological experts, in order to provide all the papers with more informative feedback that address both aspects. CLPsych’22 received a total of 23 papers for the main workshop, of which 15 were accepted; all 9 submitted shared task papers were also accepted. The organizing committee, with the help of the program committee scores, and feedback chose seven main workshop papers and two shared task papers as oral presentations, and the rest were presented in the poster session.

CLPsych’22 also hosted excellent invited speakers and panelists. Our keynote speakers were Finale Doshi-Velez (Harvard University), Shri Narayanan (University of Southern California), and Elizabeth Shriberg (Ellipsis Health and Johns Hopkins University). The talks were followed by a discussion moderated by April Foreman (Department of Veterans Affairs). Additionally, we hosted invited talks by David Crepaz (Mental Health Foundation in UK), Munmun De Choudhury (Georgia Tech), Mark Dredze (Johns Hopkins University), and Zac Imel (University of Utah). This was followed by a panel moderated by Paul Middlebrooks (creator and host of the Brain Inspired podcast).

The CLPsych organizing committee would like to extend special thanks to all the people that helped make the workshop a success. This includes and is not limited to our authors, shared task participants and organizers, program committee members, and the NORC team that helped in setting up the secure system for the shared task teams. We also would like to thank the North American chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics for making this workshop possible. Philip Resnik assisted with acquisition of sponsors, shared task data, and general advice. Special thanks to our generous sponsors: University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (silver sponsor), Receptiviti (bronze sponsor), Rebecca Resnik & Associates (copper sponsor), and the American Association of Suicidology (copper sponsor). Their funds helped to support the workshop and its program, and provided support for attendees from underrepresented minorities and/or people with financial difficulties by covering their registration costs.
Ayah Zirikly, Dana Atzil-Slonim, Maria Liakata, Steven Bedrick, Bart Desmet, Molly Ireland, Andrew Lee, Sean MacAvaney, Matthew Purver, Rebecca Resnik, and Andrew Yates

References


Organizing Committee

Workshop Co-chairs
Ayah Zirikly, Johns Hopkins University
Dana Atzil-Slonim, Bar-Ilan University
Maria Liakata, QMUL & The Alan Turing Institute

Organizing Committee
Steven Bedrick, Oregon Health & Science University
Bart Desmet, National Institutes of Health
Molly Ireland, Receptiviti
Andrew Lee, University of Michigan
Sean MacAvaney, University of Glasgow
Matthew Purver, QMUL
Rebecca Resnik, Rebecca Resnik and Associates, LLC
Andrew Yates, University of Amsterdam

Shared Task Organizers
Adam Tsakalidis, QMUL & The Alan Turing Institute
Federico Nanni, The Alan Turing Institute
Maria Liakata, QMUL & The Alan Turing Institute
Program Committee

Keynote Speakers

Finale Doshi-Velez, Harvard University
Shri Narayana, University of Southern California
Elizabeth Shriberg, Ellipsis Health and Johns Hopkins University
April Foreman, Department of Veterans Affairs (Moderator)

Invited Speakers and Panelists

David Crepaz, Mental Health Foundation in UK
Munnun De Choudhury, Georgia Tech
Mark Dredze, Johns Hopkins University
Zac Imel, University of Utah
Paul Middlebrooks, Brain Inspired (Moderator)

Program Committee

Carlos Aguirre, Johns Hopkins University
Kfir Bar, Basis Technology
Laura Biester, University of Michigan
Jenny Chim, QMUL
Trevor Cohen, University of Washington
Shauna Concannon, University of Cambridge
Kim De-Jong, University of Leiden
April Foreman, Department of Veterans Affairs
Manas Gaur, University of South Carolina
Keith Harrigian, Johns Hopkins University
Zac Imel, University of Utah/Lyssn
Loring Ingraham, George Washington University
Lorenzo Lorenzo-Luaces, Indiana University
Sean MacAvaney, University of Glasgow
Adam Miner, Stanford Psychiatry
Sarah Morgan, University of Cambridge
Yaakov Ophir, Technion (Israel)
Rob Procter, University of Warwick
Emily Tucker Prud’hommeaux, Boston College
Brian Roark, Google
Philip Resnik, University of Maryland
Julian Rubel, Giessen University
Frank Rudzicz, University of Toronto
Jonathan Schler, Bar-Ilan University
Andrew Schwartz, Stony Brook University & University of Pennsylvania
Richard Sproat, Google
Rob Stewart, King’s College London
Michael Tanana, University of Utah
Adam Tsakalidis, QMUL
Bo Wang, Massachusetts General Hospital
Cody Weston, Johns Hopkins University
Maria Wolters, University of Edinburgh
Elad Yom-Tov, Microsoft Research
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