The Center for Health Information and Decision Systems (CHIDS) conducts academic research at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business. We were the first research center within a major business school to study the use and application of information technology in healthcare. Since our inception in 2005, CHIDS has served as a focal point for thought leadership around the topic of digitally enabled health systems and applications integrating sophisticated analytics to provide healthcare solutions.

CHIDS works in collaboration with industry, clinical and government partners to address the challenges surrounding the design, adoption and integration of artificial intelligence, analytics and information technologies into the healthcare system. Our research focuses on applications and processes that impact key outcomes for patients, providers and health systems.

A trifecta of technological advances, including the digital capture of health data, improvements in methodologies for analysis, and exponential increases in computing power, have created a perfect opportunity to unleash data science on strategic and operational challenges in healthcare.

In short, transforming healthcare is our mission.
OUR PORTFOLIO

GAME-CHANGING
RESEARCH

CHIDS provides thought leadership for the greater Washington, D.C., area and beyond. Our center offers:

• A robust research portfolio focused on cutting-edge topics that help shape an ever-evolving healthcare system.
• A rich partner ecosystem across industry, health services and government.
• A regional and global network of faculty collaborators across more than 15 universities.
• A respected leadership team that mentors research scholars and fellows.

Our research examines a range of digital technologies and processes to determine how they can be more effectively deployed to improve patient safety, care experience, healthcare quality and delivery efficiency, and also reduce disparities in health outcomes. Some of our primary focus areas address the following questions:

• How does AI-assisted coding affect the productivity of medical coders?
• How can we identify and target those who will benefit most from a digital therapeutic intervention?
• How can AI-based emotion recognition be used to assess and improve the quality of health coaching sessions?
• How do online doctor reviews influence patient perceptions and choice?
CHIDS leadership consists of our directors, research scientists, and a support team that includes core faculty, staff and students from Smith's Decision, Operations and IT department. Our affiliated faculty represent the schools of medicine, public health, computer science, engineering, information studies, pharmacy, nursing, and behavioral and social sciences. We also work with dozens of Smith School master's and doctoral students each year.

"At CHIDS, we are proud to be training those who will lead AI-infused healthcare transformation. Our industry research collaborations help companies design, deploy and evaluate next generation digital health tools. We welcome new partners and trainees on our collective journey to effectively combine AI, information systems and behavior science in creative new ways."

Guodong (Gordon) Gao
Professor, decision, operations and information technologies
Co-director, Center for Health Information and Decision Systems

Our Talented Team  
(From left to right)  
Michelle Dugas, Senior Research Scientist  
Ritu Agarwal, Founder and Director  
Gordon Gao, Co-Director  
Kenyon Crowley, Managing Director  
Faye Baker, Program Manager  
(Not pictured)
CHIDS offers fully customized educational experiences, events and training programs to help your organization solve its unique challenges and develop new capabilities. These rigorous and innovative learning options are designed to be results-oriented and are structured to have a positive, measurable impact.

**AI LEADERSHIP FOR HEALTHCARE** is the first-of-its-kind AI-centric program designed for managers, executives, administrators, clinical professionals and others who seek to advance their healthcare-affiliated careers through a focused study. The blended program can be tailored to students' needs and completed at their own pace. The program is also offered in a short course format for busy executives.

**THE CONFERENCE ON HEALTH IT AND ANALYTICS (CHITA)** is an annual research summit that brings together prominent scholars from more than 40 research institutes, leading policymakers and practitioners, in a vibrant setting to share opportunities and address challenges in health IT and analytics. The conference includes a doctoral consortium.
Since its inception, CHIDS has collaborated with dozens of research partners representing industry, health services delivery, government, academia and nonprofits.

Alliances with partners—such as AHRQ, NIH and NSF—help us collectively achieve our vision for improving the practice and delivery of healthcare. This partial list of affiliated organizations includes both research project sponsors and collaborators.

"Inovalon partnered with CHIDS to support our advancements in AI through predictions aimed at improving the efficient distribution and quality of care. They bring unique subject matter expertise on these systems, in addition to being highly networked thought leaders in the healthcare arena."

Eric Sullivan ’93 (Neurobiology) (second from the left)
Senior Vice President, Innovation & Data Strategies
Inovalon
GET INVOLVED WITH CHIDS

Partnerships are very important to us. We rely on relationships with private corporations, not-for-profit organizations and academic institutions to conduct mutually beneficial research and knowledge-generation activities. These collaborations provide transformative investments in our students' careers.

**Individually and organizations can engage with us through:**

- Memberships
- Sponsored research and development projects
- Grant and contract teaming

**Benefits of partnering with CHIDS include:**

- Integration of AI and cutting-edge technologies into your organization
- Participation in key conferences and events
- Priority access to recruit doctoral, master's and undergraduate student talent
- Early insights from research papers and publications
- Engagement with Maryland Smith and other world-class UMD faculty

Experience the benefits of a CHIDS partnership. Contact us at chids@umd.edu or 301-405-2206.
CHIDS is dedicated to improving the practice and delivery of healthcare by offering researched solutions that integrate information and decision technologies into the healthcare system. We provide thought leadership on effectively deploying digital technologies and analytics to help ensure patient safety, healthcare quality, efficiency in healthcare delivery, and a reduction in healthcare disparities.

JOIN US
As you learn more about the robust activity at our center, we invite you to become a part of the team and share our passion for the business of transforming healthcare.