



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Blockchain Project to Detect and Track Fake News

(Coral Gables, FL, July 13, 2020) University of Miami Visiting Distinguished Professor and Institute for Data Science and Computing (IDSC) [Chief Innovation Officer](#) Yelena Yesha, PhD, is launching a collaborative blockchain project to detect and track fake news by identifying the source in real time. “The coronavirus pandemic has led to an explosion of misinformation, such as ‘miracle cures’ as well as scammers trying to take advantage of people, and others who spread rumors for fun,” said Dr. Yesha. “As information spreads quickly in social media, it is an urgent task to develop methods for preventing the spread of fake news.”

Dr. Yesha will collaborate with her colleagues at IDSC and the [Center for Accelerated Real Time Analytics](#) (CARTA) to develop a process using blockchain to determine the origin of suspected fake news articles. Dr. Yesha is director of CARTA, which is one of the Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers funded through a grant from the [National Science Foundation](#).

“Early on, the use of blockchain was mostly in the financial sector,” said Dr. Yesha. “Now, because of its low cost and high security, the use of blockchain for authentication is receiving rapidly growing interest in many fields. By applying blockchain to social media communications we hope to authenticate information that is critical to human welfare.”

Blockchain is a modern system for authenticating various types of transactions by comparing ledgers posted to a decentralized group of computers. Each transaction, such as a social media post, has a time stamp. With the use of a cryptographic encoding, time stamps, and data, in a distributed network, any forgery of data can be quickly detected, according to Dr. Yesha.

While many algorithms have been proposed for blockchain, the new initiative will use [Chios](#), which offers fine-grained access control. Dr. Yesha’s team will develop a computer program demonstrating how to capture fake news using Chios, and a set of experimental results to show the effectiveness of blockchain in tracking suspect posts.

“Leveraging cutting-edge, IDSC can be a leader in authenticating social media communications,” said Dr. Yesha. “An effective blockchain tool can play a vital role in combating the spread of fake news.”

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