

Episode: *Author Interview: "Which Data Analytics Tool Should We Use to Evaluate Risk in Upstream Drug Supply Chains?"*

Guest: Wejdan Bagais, MSc

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript: Cheryl Green

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[bright theme music]

[00:00:03] TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the Author Interview series from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I'm your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides an alternative way to access the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Wejdan Bagais, a senior machine learning engineer at US Pharmacopeia. She's here to discuss her article, coauthored with Matt Christian, "*Which Data Analytics Tool Should We Use to Evaluate Risk in Upstream Drug Supply Chains?*," in the April 2024 issue of the Journal, [Global Medical Supply Chain Security](#). Wejdan, thank you so much for being on the podcast. [music fades]

WEJDAN BAGAIS: Thanks for having me.

[00:00:44] HOFF: So, to begin with, what's the main ethics point that you and your co-author are making in your article?

BAGAIS: The article focuses on showing the factors that affect the shortage and advocate for investment in early warning systems for drug shortage, also exploring the payment, contracting, and pricing innovations. The drug shortages trigger the following ethical considerations. So, we have equity of access: How do clinicians decide which patients should have access to scarce drugs? Information transparency: How should drug shortage information be communicated to patients and the public in a manner that is transparent, accurate, and responsible? Also, crisis management: What are the criteria for evaluating patient demand under crisis conditions? And finally, responsibility and ownership: Knowing that data signals are available to identify some shortage risks, what should industry, government, or other stakeholders do with the information to prevent or mitigate risks?

[00:01:57] HOFF: And so, what do you see as the most important thing for health professions students and trainees to take from this article specifically?

BAGAIS: So, one group that is particularly applicable here are hospitalists and hospital pharmacists. Currently, they're spending significant amounts of time keeping track of metrics and trying to do this on their own as it relates to their organization and hospital. As a possible benefit of early warning system for them is less time keeping track of things in their piecemeal systems and centralized place for this information. Less time tracking this information means more time for patient care and other important point of care activities.

[00:02:43] HOFF: And finally, if you could add a point to your article that you didn't have the time or the space to fully explore, what would that be?

BAGAIS: Yeah. So, the more visibility all stakeholders have is also more visibility for those at the point of care. That could equate to better understanding of the medicines that are and are

not available to treat their patients. So, having more insight into the supply chain of API, inactive ingredients, or other key starting materials would help in increasing visibility. [theme music returns]

[00:03:17] HOFF: Wejdan, thank you so much for your time today on the podcast, and thanks to you and your co-author for your contribution to the Journal this month.

BAGAIS: Thank you.

HOFF: To read the full article, as well as the rest of this month's issue for free, visit our site, journalofethics.org. We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.