Dr. François Modave, Associate Professor and Chair of the JSU Department of Computer Science and Dr. Navkiran K. Shokar (MD, MPH), Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) - El Paso have collaborated to develop a web-based decision-aid tool designed to facilitate the informed and shared decision-making process between patients and physicians in the context of colorectal cancer screening. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States. Every year, close to 145,000 new patients are diagnosed and nearly 45,000 Americans die of the disease. This could be curbed significantly with a better adherence to the guidelines set by the United States Preventive Services Task Force. Currently, only 58.6% of the targeted population adheres to these guidelines, and it drops to nearly 35% among some minorities. The focus of this work is on increasing screening uptake among Hispanics, as the clinical work is based in El Paso, but the results will widely apply across all groups, and the model can be subsequently developed for other types of diseases for which a clear best solution does not exist.

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