Responsible AI Guiding Principles

sanofi

Introduction

At Sanofi, our mission is to build a healthier, more resilient world. We turn the impossible into the possible by discovering, developing, and delivering medicines and vaccines for millions of people around the world. We are using AI to enhance our ability to achieve this mission by accelerating drug discovery, enhancing clinical trial design, and improving the manufacturing and supply of medicines and vaccines.

However, despite the huge promise of the application of AI to the biopharmaceutical enterprise, we recognize that there are significant public concerns regarding the increasing use of AI, particularly in the areas of misinformation, loss of human oversight, liability, lack of transparency or accountability, cybersecurity and privacy.

To address these concerns, we have implemented a robust governance and accountability framework across the company to help ensure that our development and use of AI is done responsibly, with a full appreciation of the potential risks and how to control for them.

Responsible AI means that we are accountable for designing, developing, deploying, and using AI Systems so that they are fair and ethical, transparent and explainable, robust and safe, and eco-responsible.

Key Messages

1) How we protect patients and other stakeholders and maximize AI's opportunity responsibly:

By building a robust governance framework that ensures we harness AI's potential fully, but responsibly, we will drive AI-enabled innovation at-scale both internally and externally in a manner that prioritizes fairness, transparency, safety, accountability and eco-responsibility.

2) How we mitigate the risks inherent in the application of AI:

We manage AI risks by adhering to a comprehensive, thoughtful, risk-based approach that is responsive to the changing AI regulatory landscape and enforces proportionate governance and technology controls to manage AI innovation responsibly. We take on this accountability from design through deployment and use of AI systems, including those from third parties.

The Pillars of our Responsible AI Framework

Sanofi's Responsible AI Use framework aligns with major international frameworks, especially the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)'s AI Principles[1]. In particular, Sanofi endorses and supports IFPMA's Artificial Intelligence Principles[2] as listed below, and these principles are embedded into our Responsible AI Framework:

Empowering Humans, Accountability, Human Control, Fairness and minimization of bias, Privacy, Security, and Safety by Design, Transparency, Explainability, and Ethical Use.

Our framework will evolve and adapt as national legislative and regulatory frameworks emerge to ensure we are fully compliant with public expectations, and legal and regulatory requirements. Our Responsible AI Use Framework also reflects our existing dedication to both ethics and business integrity.

Accountable to Outcomes:

Our overarching commitment is that we hold ourselves accountable throughout the entirety of the AI system life cycle, based on our Responsible AI Pillars described below. We will adhere to all associated risk-based controls at all stages of the AI life cycle from design, development and deployment, through to use.

Fair & Ethical:

We will design, develop, deploy and use AI, such that we prevent bias and uphold fundamental human rights, which includes human-centered values especially respect for privacy, data protection, non-discrimination, autonomy and justice. We will adhere to existing laws surrounding these ethical values and we will take into account how our AI System impacts the world around us, both directly and indirectly.
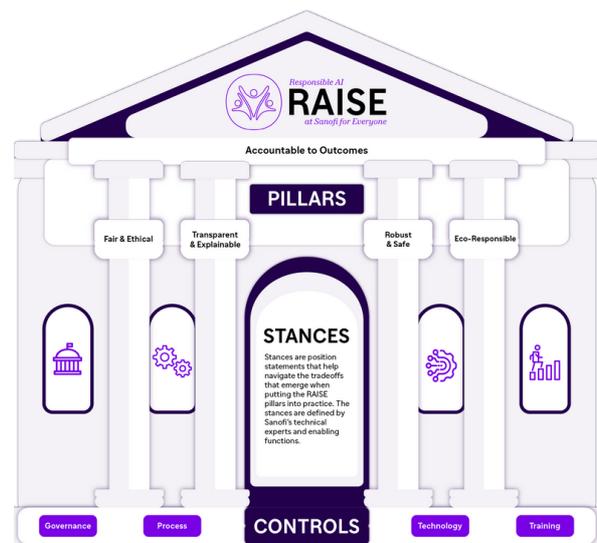
Robust & Safe:

We will design, develop, deploy, and use AI systems so that they do not cause harm to users. We strive to make our AI systems accurate, adaptable, secure, and reliable from the outset.

Transparent & Explainable:

We will communicate when and how our AI systems are used and their limitations. We will provide opportunities for end-users to question, reject and understand AI system outputs wherever possible. We will use end-user and stakeholder's feedback to improve our AI Systems.

Eco-Responsible

We will design our AI systems to minimize their environmental footprint.

We will mitigate AI Risks through our risk-based approach:

To mitigate risks, Sanofi employs a risk-based approach to AI regulation. Our approach includes the thorough assessment of AI risk through our Sanofi AI Risk Assessment procedures, the identification of appropriate controls depending on assigned risk level, and governance to oversee the assignment, execution and enforcement of controls.

Our commitment to Responsible AI reflects our dedication to ethics & business integrity, therefore we have integrated Responsible AI into our company-wide Code of Conduct - Sanofi. We have also committed to train all our employees in Responsible AI and monitor our implementation of our Responsible AI Framework to ensure that our use of AI improves the lives and well-being of our patients.

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[1] https://oecd.ai/en/ai-principles
[2] https://www.ifpma.org/publications/ifpma-artificial-intelligence-principles/