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"Big data" opened up new challenges in many IT and interdisciplinary fields, such as medicine, healthcare, education, e-commerce, and defense. The challenges emanate from all the 5 Vs that characterize the big data, namely, volume, velocity, veracity, value, and variety. This special issue focuses on the two main sources of big data, namely, social media and healthcare. Social networks have become so popular that, for most people, they are essential for their daily life. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other social networks are generating unprecedented amounts of raw, unstructured big data that could be mined for useful purposes. Similarly, in medical field enormous volumes of heterogeneous data are being generated, such as electronic health records, medical imaging, and written texts such as nurse notes. This big data poses all the challenges characterized by the 5 Vs and needs to be mined to gain useful insights, which could be used for better and affordable healthcare for everyone.

This special issue is intended to invite researchers with innovative ideas and cutting edge research in big data mining in the areas of social networks and healthcare. We solicit high quality research that would significantly contribute to the advancement of this theme.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Management and processing of the big data in social networks, medicine, and healthcare
- ▶ Privacy and security issues with the big data in social networks, medicine, and healthcare
- ▶ New technologies with Cloud computing for mining big data in social networks, medicine, and healthcare data sources
- ▶ Big data mining and knowledge discovery in medical and healthcare domains
- ▶ Big data mining and knowledge discovery in social networks
- ▶ Systems (e.g., decision support systems) and applications developed using big data from social networks and medicine and healthcare
- ▶ Analytics and visualization of big data in social networks and medical and healthcare areas

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Lead Guest Editor
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m.masud@uaeu.ac.ae

Guest Editors
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lkhan@utdallas.edu

Yacine Atif, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE
yacine.atif@uaeu.ac.ae

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