

# The BioASQ challenge

BioASQ aims to push for a solution to the information access problem of biomedical experts through challenges on biomedical semantic indexing and question answering.

## Challenge

### Task A . Large-Scale Online Biomedical Semantic Indexing

Large-scale semantic indexing is evaluated on the whole of PubMed. Participants are asked to classify incoming documents before the human curators do:

- + BioASQ distributes new unclassified PubMed documents.
- + Participants have a limited response time to attach MeSH terms.

Task A runs for three consecutive periods (batches) of 5 weeks each.

### Task B . Biomedical Semantic Question Answering

This task involves biomedical Information Retrieval, QA, and Summarization. The participants have to respond with relevant concepts, articles, snippets and RDF triples as well as exact answers and paragraph-sized summaries to bio-medical questions in English.

- + Task B uses benchmark datasets containing development and test questions, in English, along with a gold standard.
- + The benchmark datasets contain at least 1300 questions.
- + The test dataset of Task B is released in five batches, each containing approximately 100 questions.

Separate winners are announced for each batch of each task. Participation in the task can be partial. All details can be found on the project website.

# The Organizers



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A challenge on  
**large-scale biomedical  
semantic indexing  
and question answering**

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# ✖ Aims

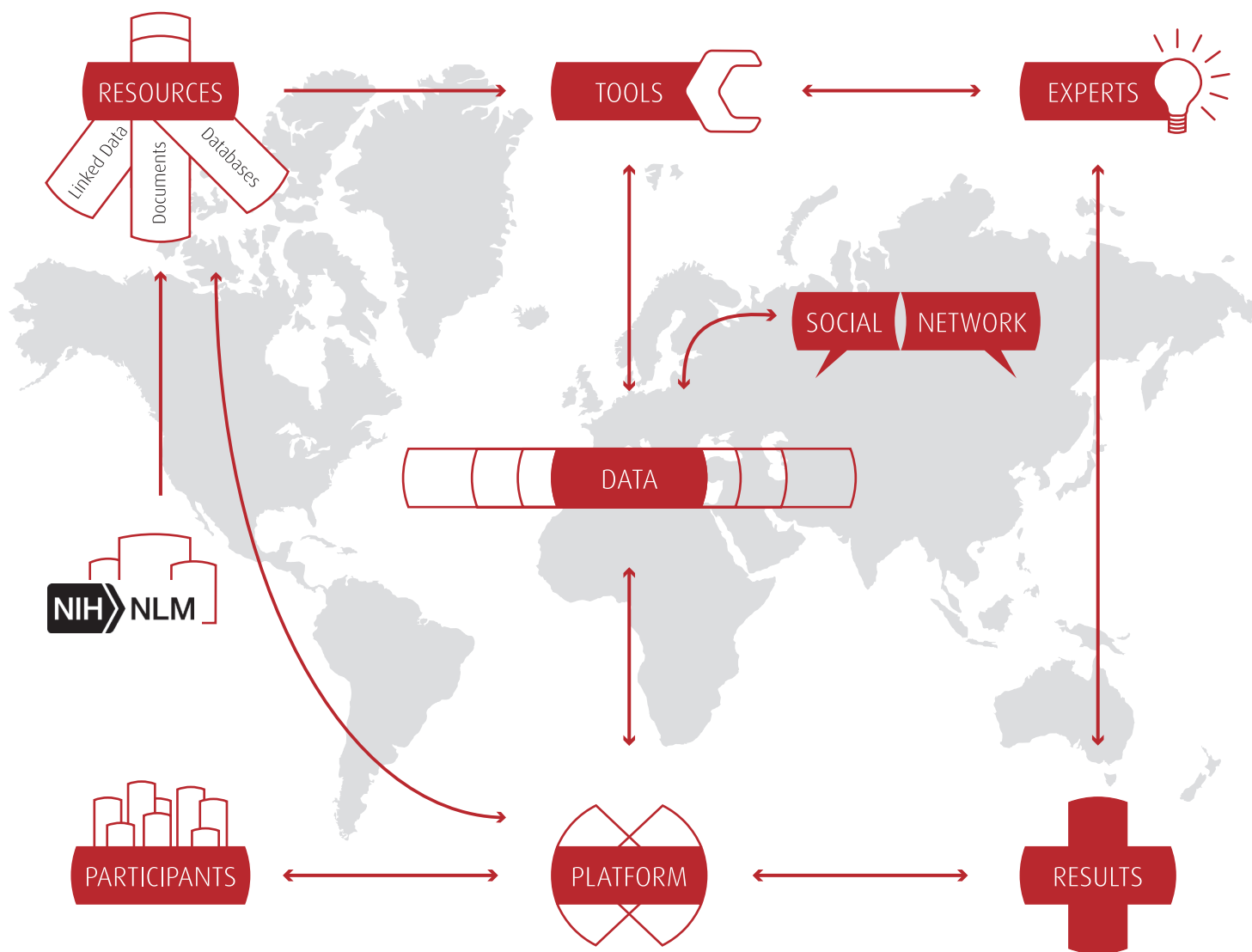
BioASQ aims to provide this push by setting up ambitious, yet feasible and clearly defined challenge tasks, intended to lead to integrated, efficient, and effective semantic indexing and QA methods for the biomedical domain. Additionally, BioASQ will help towards establishing an evaluation framework for biomedical QA systems, by:

1. Developing a tool suite for creating complex benchmark data sets, including an annotation tool, an assessment tool and an asynchronous social network
2. Creating benchmark datasets and
3. Adopting and refining existing evaluation measures for its challenge tasks.

The BioASQ challenge evaluates the ability of systems to perform various tasks in the biomedical QA process:

1. Large-scale classification of biomedical documents onto ontology concepts (semantic indexing),
2. Classification of biomedical questions onto relevant concepts,
3. Retrieval of relevant document snippets, concepts and knowledge base triples, and
4. Delivery of the retrieved information in a concise and user-understandable form.

# BioASQ Architecture ✖



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