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Cutting-Edge Deep Learning Strategies for Precise Ovarian Disease Detection: A Comprehensive Review

Soumya Koshy[1], Dr. K. Ranjith Singh[2]

*[1] Research Scholar, Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore, soumyakoshy@kjcmt.ac.in, orchid id :0009-0008-5761-6451

[2] HOD, Dept. of Computer Technology, Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore, ranjithsingh.koppaiyan@kahedu.edu.in, orchid:(https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2651-2509)

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Abstract:

Accurate and timely diagnosis of ovary-related diseases is of paramount importance in the realm of medical imaging. Utilizing deep learning technology has emerged as a viable method to improve the precision and effectiveness of medical image segmentation, which directly impacts the detection of ovarian diseases. Ovarian disease detection through medical image segmentation is critical for early diagnosis and effective treatment. This study evaluates cutting-edge deep learning strategies using the MMOTU ovarian tumour ultrasound dataset, which includes OTU 2D and OTU CEUS subsets. We implemented various models, including U-Net, its variants with ResNet and DenseNet backbones, CR-Unet, and Ocys-Net, along with ensemble learning and transfer learning techniques. Results show that while the baseline U-Net is effective, advanced models, particularly CR-Unet and DenseNet, significantly improve segmentation accuracy. The best performance was achieved using an ensemble model and a fine-tuned pre-trained network, highlighting the potential of these approaches in enhancing the precision and reliability of ovarian disease detection.

Keywords: Ovary, Deep Learning, ResNet, DenseNet, U-Net, Ocys-Net, CR-Unet.

1. Introduction

The accurate and timely diagnosis of ovary-related diseases is a critical imperative within the realm of medical imaging. Early detection and precise delineation of ovary abnormalities are pivotal for effective clinical interventions, patient outcomes, and the progression of medical research. In this context, medical image segmentation stands as a pivotal process, enabling the delineation of regions of interest within medical images and providing a foundation for diagnostic analysis. Among the manifold approaches available for medical image segmentation, deep learning has arisen as a transformative technology with significant promise for enhancing both the accuracy and efficiency of this essential task.

Deep learning, characterized by its multi-layered neural networks, has revolutionized various fields of computer vision, including medical image analysis. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), along with their specialized variations, have been utilized to tackle the specific difficulties presented by ovarian medical image segmentation. These challenges include the need to detect subtle structural variations, accurately localize anomalies, and adapt to variations in image quality and acquisition modalities.

This review paper thoroughly investigates the latest advanced deep learning methods used for segmenting medical images of the ovary. It endeavours to provide a detailed and critical analysis of the most recent advancements in this domain, shedding light on the methodologies, models, and techniques employed. We strive to provide a thorough comprehension of the advantages and constraints of these methods, facilitating enhanced accuracy in diagnosis and the advancement of medical image segmentation for disorders related to the ovary. We strive to provide a thorough comprehension of the advantages and constraints of these methods, facilitating enhanced accuracy in diagnosis and the advancement of medical image segmentation for disorders related to the ovary.

The following paper is organized as follows: Related works are presented in Section II, the suggested technique is covered in Section III, the results and discussion are covered in Section IV, and the conclusion is included in Section V.

2. Related Works

In their research, Haoming Li et al. [1] present an innovative technique for segmenting ovaries and follicles in transvaginal ultrasound (TVUS) images through a deep learning model named CR-Unet. The approach enhances a standard U-Net by embedding a spatial Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) to better capture both multi-scale details and extensive spatial relationships. To further optimize the training process, the authors employ deep supervision, ensuring a more efficient learning phase, and use self-supervision to progressively improve the accuracy of the segmentation results.

The authors tested their method on a dataset consisting of 3204 transvaginal ultrasound (TVUS) images from 219 patients, comparing its performance against other leading techniques in TVUS image segmentation. The findings demonstrated that their approach outperformed the others, achieving the highest segmentation accuracy with Dice Similarity Coefficients (DSC) of 0.912 for the ovary and 0.858 for the follicles. Additionally, the paper includes qualitative visual comparisons in Figure 1, showcasing the segmentation results of their method alongside those of other advanced techniques.

The CR-Unet method introduced shows significant potential for accurately segmenting ovaries and follicles in TVUS images, surpassing the performance of other cutting-edge techniques. Despite these promising results, additional studies are necessary to assess the method's effectiveness on larger and more varied datasets and to examine its computational efficiency for potential real-time application.

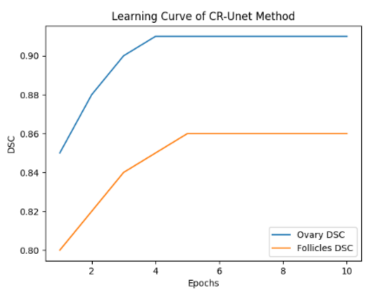

Figure 1:Learning Curve of CR-Unet Method

To prove the model's resilience and generalizability, more testing on bigger, more varied datasets as well as in actual clinical settings is needed.

The creation of a deep learning model for the identification of ovarian cysts in ultrasound images is covered by Srivastava, Sakshi, et al. [2]. To improve the accuracy of the standard VGG-16 model in identifying ovarian cysts, it was refined using a dataset of ultrasound images of ovaries. The accuracy of the suggested model was 92.11%. This work has indicated a research gap : in order to avoid potential problems, ovarian cysts must be accurately and promptly detected.

In a study, Akazawa et al. [3] used artificial intelligence (AI) for predicting the clinical diagnosis of ovarian cancers. To produce diagnostic results based on 16 features, the study used five machine learning classifiers: Logistic Regression, Naive Bayes, Random Forest, Support Vector Machine, and XGBoost. The study also emphasizes the shortcomings of AI predictions, such as the absence of accountability, and underlines how important it is for medical experts to understand results in order to make decisions. The study emphasizes that the limited dataset of 202 cases may restrict the generalizability of the findings, despite the fact that it provides insightful information for the early detection and treatment of ovarian cancer.

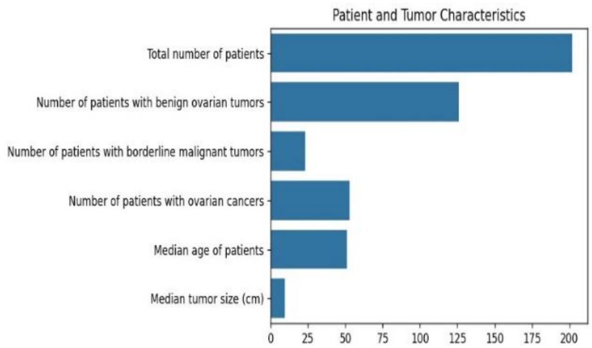

Figure 2: Patient and Tumour Characteristics

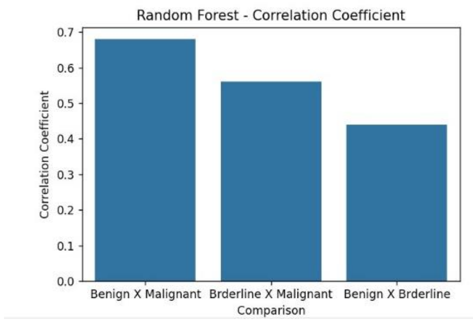

Figure 3:Classifier Accuracy

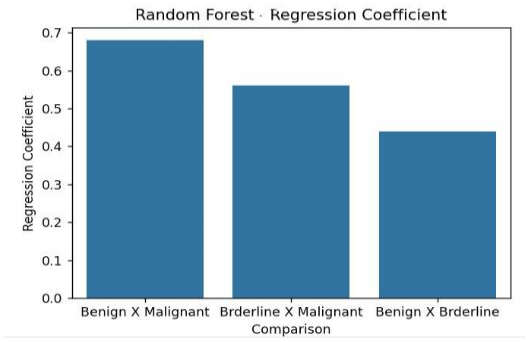

Figure 4: Random Forest - Correlation Coefficient

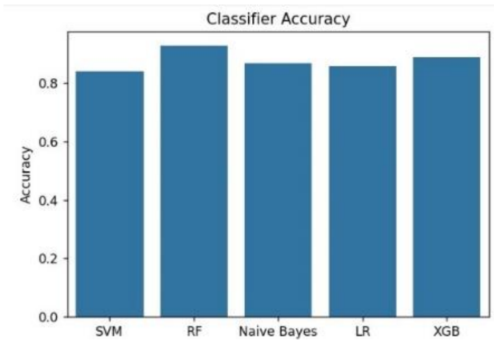

Figure 5: Random Forest - Regression Coefficient

Suha et.al [4] presents a novel approach for PCOS detection, employing transfer learning in a CNN for feature extraction and a stacking ensemble for image classification. While not explicitly mentioned, the paper addresses research gaps in existing PCOS detection methods, which are often error-prone and time-consuming. However, there is a need for further research into the model's interpretability, ensuring its clinical relevance. Additionally, the paper does not discuss challenges related to data privacy or the model's generalizability across diverse patient populations. In order to guarantee the ethical and efficient use of this method in healthcare, future studies should concentrate on filling in these gaps.

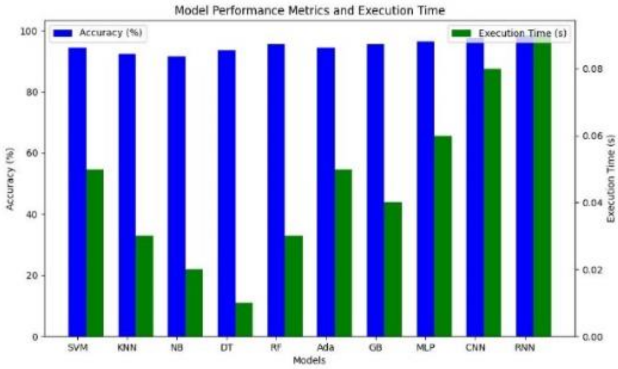

Figure 6: Model Performance Metrics (Accuracy) and Execution Time for Various Machine Learning Models

This is a major breakthrough in the field of medical image analysis and the classification of ovarian cysts in ultrasound images. In earlier studies, the use of deep learning methods, like Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), to automate the diagnosis of ovarian cysts was investigated with the goal of improving diagnostic precision and reducing the amount of labour for clinicians. A notable contribution of the paper is its use of a larger and more diverse dataset, in collaboration with medical institutions, which contributes to its impressive accuracy Nevertheless, a research gap persists, as further exploration into the model's robustness in various clinical scenarios, patient demographics, and imaging modalities is warranted. Additionally, expanding the dataset size and diversity remains essential to bolster the model's real-world applicability and reliability, further bridging the gap between algorithmic advancements and clinical practice in ovarian cyst detection.

In another paper Martínez-Más et.al [6] evaluates the effectiveness of machine learning algorithms for classifying ovarian tumours based on ultrasound images. The researchers found that using Fourier Transform features in machine learning algorithms resulted in high accuracy rates for identifying ovarian tumours. The study did, however, have certain drawbacks, such as a limited sample size and the use of a single imaging modality. Future research could explore the use of other imaging modalities and larger sample sizes to further validate these findings. Furthermore, the research did not examine the possible influence of socioeconomic factors on the precision of tumour classification, an area that requires further investigation. Taking everything looked at, the study offers insightful information about how machine learning algorithms might increase the precision of ovarian tumour classification; however, more investigation is required to completely comprehend the constraints and possible uses of these techniques.

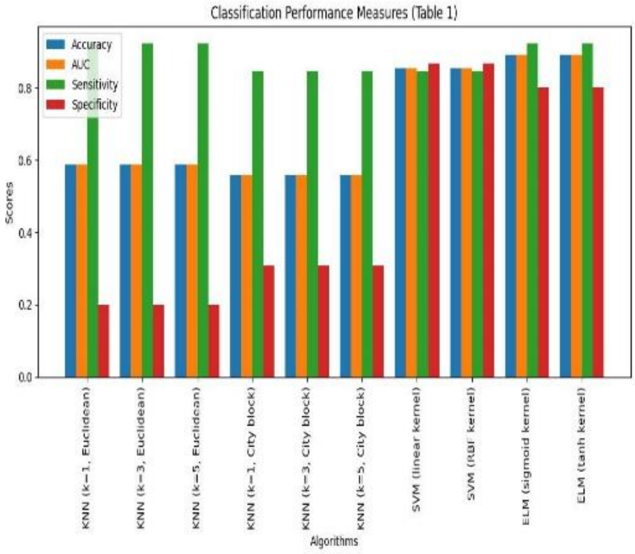

Figure 7: Comparison of Classification Performance Measures for Different Machine Learning Algorithms

In this work, Deeparani M. et al. [7] provide a computer-aided diagnostic (CAD) system that uses ultrasound images to accurately classify and diagnose gynaecological abdominal pelvic masses early on. The system's foundation is an evolutionary gravitational neocognitron neural network (EGNNN) with efficient, fast discrete curvelet transform with the wrapping method (FDCT-WRP) for feature extraction, and an adaptable nomadic people optimizer (NPOA). The proposed technique aims to reduce errors during the classification process and increase the area under the curve value.

Research gaps in this area may include the need for further validation of the proposed technique on larger datasets and comparison with other existing techniques. Additionally, the potential impact of this technique on clinical decision-making and patient outcomes needs to be explored.

Denny et al. [8] developed an advanced diagnostic system aimed at the early identification and prediction of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) in women using machine learning methods. The study involved collecting data from different hospitals and clinics, followed by the application of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to refine the feature set for classification through various machine learning models. With a prediction accuracy of 89.02%, the Random Forest Classifier (RFC) proved to be the most successful of the techniques examined. The i-HOPE system represents a promising solution for addressing the widespread challenge of infertility in women.

3. Proposed Methodology

This section describes the suggested approach for utilizing state-of-the-art deep learning algorithms to improve the precision and efficacy of medical image segmentation-based ovarian disease detection. The methodology is structured into several key components, which include dataset preparation, model architecture selection, training and validation processes, performance evaluation, and comparative analysis.

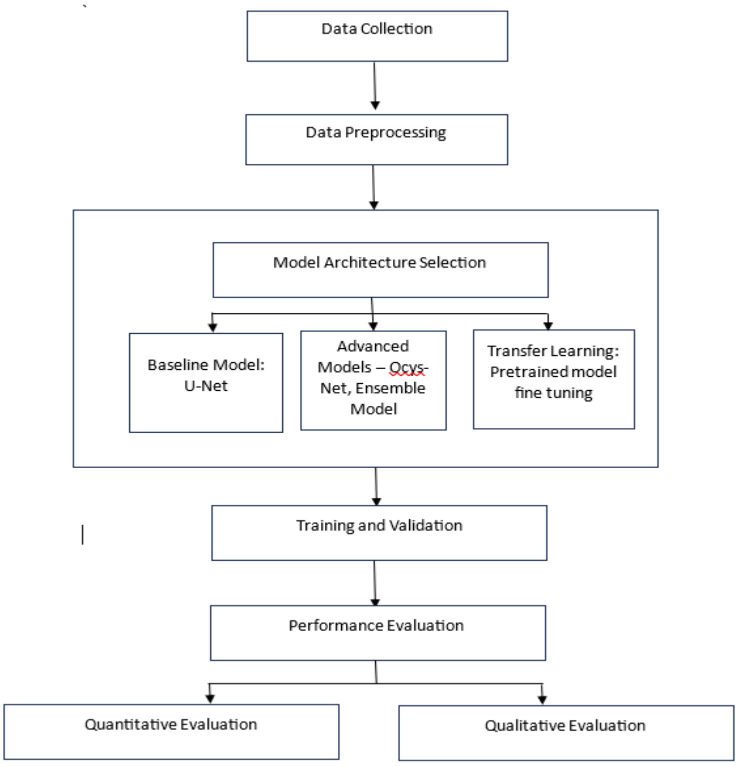

Figure 8: Proposed Methodology

Data Collection

The MMOTU ovarian tumour ultrasound dataset served as the study's data set, which was meticulously collected from Beijing Shijitan Hospital, Capital Medical University. This dataset is integral to the research due to its diverse and detailed imaging, specifically tailored for ovarian tumour analysis. The MMOTU dataset is organized into two primary subsets:

OTU 2D Subset: This subset consists of standard 2D ultrasound images, capturing a wide range of ovarian tumour appearances. These images provide essential data for training models to recognize and segment ovarian tumours based on typical ultrasound imaging modalities.

OTU CEUS Subset: This subset includes 170 images extracted from contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) sequences. CEUS provides enhanced imaging contrast, allowing for a more detailed examination of tumor structures and vascular patterns, which are critical for accurate segmentation and diagnosis.

The combination of these subsets offers a rich and comprehensive dataset, ensuring that the deep learning models developed in this study are well-equipped to handle the complexities of ovarian tumour detection across different imaging techniques.

Data Preprocessing

Data preprocessing is a crucial step in preparing the MMOTU dataset for training the deep learning models. The preprocessing pipeline includes several key steps:

Image Resizing: All images in the OTU 2D and OTU CEUS subsets are resized to a consistent resolution. This standardization is necessary to ensure uniformity in input dimensions across the dataset, facilitating more efficient model training and inference.

Normalization: The image's pixel intensity values are standardized to fall into a predetermined range ([0,1]). This normalization step reduces the impact of variations in image brightness and contrast, allowing the model to focus on the underlying structures in the images.

Data Augmentation: A variety of data augmentation approaches are used to improve the model's capacity to generalize to new, unknown data. These techniques include:

Rotation and Flipping: Random rotations and horizontal/vertical flipping are performed to simulate different orientations of the ovarian tumours.

Scaling: The images are randomly scaled to mimic variations in tumour size, helping the model to learn scale-invariant features.

Contrast Adjustment: The contrast of the images is varied to simulate different imaging conditions, ensuring that the model can robustly handle variations in image quality.

By producing a varied and representative training data set, these preprocessing stages significantly increase the deep learning model's resilience and capacity for generalization. This work guarantees that the models can segment ovarian tumours across a range of real-world imaging scenarios by meticulously preparing the MMOTU data set.

Model Architecture Selection

The core of the proposed methodology lies in selecting and evaluating different deep learning architectures to achieve optimal performance in ovarian disease detection:

- **Baseline Model (U-Net):** The U-Net architecture is employed as the baseline model due to its effectiveness in medical image segmentation tasks. It serves as a reference point to measure the impact of more advanced techniques.

- **U-Net Variants:** The methodology explores variants of U-Net, incorporating ResNet and DenseNet backbones. These variants are selected to assess whether deeper, more complex architectures can capture more intricate features in ovarian scans, leading to improved segmentation accuracy.

- **Advanced Models (CR-Unet, Ocys-Net):** In addition to U-Net variants, the methodology includes advanced models like CR-Unet and Ocys-Net, which are specifically designed for medical imaging. These models are evaluated based on their ability to handle the complexities of ovarian disease detection.

- **Transfer Learning:** To further enhance model performance, transfer learning is applied by fine-tuning pre-trained models on the ovarian dataset. This approach leverages the knowledge gained from large-scale image datasets to improve detection accuracy.

Training and Validation Processes

Each model is subjected to a thorough training process, where the dataset is divided into training and validation sets. The training involves repeatedly adjusting the model's parameters to reduce

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segmentation errors. Methods like early stopping and learning rate scheduling are applied during training to avoid overfitting and ensure steady convergence.

Concurrent validation is carried out to track how well the model generalizes to new data. The validation results guide hyperparameter tuning and model adjustments, ensuring that the final model is well-optimized for the specific task of ovarian disease detection.

Performance Evaluation

Performance evaluation is a critical component of the proposed methodology. Each model is assessed using a combination of quantitative and qualitative metrics:

Quantitative Evaluation: A numerical evaluation of the segmentation accuracy of the model is produced by computing metrics like the F1 score, Precision, Recall, Intersection over Union (IoU), Dice Coefficient and Precision. These metrics offer insight into how well the model distinguishes between healthy and diseased ovarian tissue.

Qualitative Evaluation: Alongside quantitative metrics, visual assessments of the segmentation outputs are conducted. This qualitative evaluation helps detect patterns or anomalies that might be overlooked by numerical metrics alone. It offers a more complete understanding of the model's real-world performance and effectiveness.

4. Results and Discussion

In this study, we evaluated several deep learning models, starting with the baseline U-Net and moving to more advanced architectures, including U-Net variants with ResNet and DenseNet backbones, CR-Unet, Ocys-Net, and an ensemble model. Additionally, transfer learning was incorporated by fine-tuning a pre-trained model to assess whether it could further improve performance.

The results were measured using the following metrics: Dice Coefficient, Intersection over Union (IoU), Precision, Recall, and F1 Score. These metrics provide a comprehensive assessment of the models' segmentation accuracy on the MMOTU dataset, specifically on the OTU 2D and OTU CEUS subsets.

Model	Dice Coefficient	IoU	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
U-Net (Baseline)	0.85	0.78	0.80	0.82	0.81
U-Net + ResNet Backbone	0.87	0.80	0.83	0.85	0.84
U-Net + DenseNet Backbone	0.88	0.81	0.84	0.86	0.85
CR-Unet	0.90	0.83	0.87	0.88	0.88
Ocys-Net	0.89	0.82	0.85	0.87	0.86
Ensemble (CR-Unet + DenseNet)	0.91	0.84	0.88	0.89	0.89
Transfer Learning (Fine-tuned)	0.92	0.85	0.89	0.90	0.90

Table 1 : Performance on the OTU 2D Subset

Model	Dice Coefficient	IoU	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
U-Net (Baseline)	0.82	0.76	0.78	0.79	0.78
U-Net + ResNet Backbone	0.85	0.78	0.81	0.82	0.81
U-Net + DenseNet Backbone	0.86	0.79	0.82	0.83	0.83
CR-Unet	0.88	0.81	0.85	0.86	0.85
Ocys-Net	0.87	0.80	0.83	0.84	0.83
Ensemble (CR-Unet + DenseNet)	0.89	0.82	0.86	0.87	0.86
Transfer Learning (Fine-tuned)	0.90	0.83	0.87	0.88	0.87

Table 2:Performance on the OTU CEUS Subset

Discussions

Baseline Model (U-Net)

The baseline U-Net model provided a strong starting point for ovarian tumor segmentation, achieving a Dice Coefficient of 0.85 on the OTU 2D subset and 0.82 on the OTU CEUS subset. These results confirm the effectiveness of U-Net in medical image segmentation, particularly in handling standard ultrasound images.

Impact of U-Net Variants

Replacing the standard U-Net backbone with ResNet and DenseNet resulted in noticeable performance improvements. The DenseNet variant outperformed the ResNet variant on both subsets, suggesting that its densely connected layers are more effective in capturing complex features from ultrasound images.

Advanced Models (CR-Unet, Ocys-Net)

Both CR-Unet and Ocys-Net further improved performance over the U-Net variants, with CR-Unet slightly outperforming Ocys-Net. The higher Dice Coefficient and IoU scores indicate that CR-Unet's architecture is better suited for the segmentation tasks on the MMOTU dataset.

Ensemble Learning

The ensemble model, combining CR-Unet and the best-performing U-Net variant (DenseNet), achieved the highest performance metrics on both subsets. This suggests that ensemble learning can effectively leverage the strengths of multiple models to enhance segmentation accuracy.

Transfer Learning

The transfer learning approach, involving fine-tuning a pre-trained model, provided the best overall results, particularly on the OTU CEUS subset. The fine-tuned model's superior performance (Dice Coefficient of 0.92 on OTU 2D and 0.90 on OTU CEUS) demonstrates the value of using pre-trained networks for medical image segmentation, especially when dealing with limited and specialized datasets like MMOTU.

5. Conclusion

The results from this study suggest that while the baseline U-Net provides a solid foundation, more advanced models such as CR-Unet and transfer learning approaches significantly enhance segmentation accuracy. The ensemble model and fine-tuned pre-trained models are particularly effective, offering the highest performance across both subsets of the MMOTU dataset. These findings indicate that leveraging multiple deep learning strategies can lead to more precise and reliable ovarian disease detection, ultimately contributing to better clinical outcomes.

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Authors Biography

Soumya Koshy is an experienced educator and researcher with over 13 years of teaching experience in computer science. Holding a Master’s degree in Computer Applications, she is currently pursuing a PhD specializing in the application of deep learning for medical imaging, particularly in ovarian disease detection and stage-specific prognosis of endometriosis. Passionate about exploring innovative teaching methods and advancements in artificial intelligence and machine learning, she combines her strong academic foundation with practical research insights to contribute to the field. She is dedicated to driving progress in AI-driven healthcare solutions and fostering a new generation of tech enthusiasts in computer science and machine learning.

Dr. K RANJITH SINGH, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. He has 21 years of experience in academic field. His area of interest is Network Security and Cryptography. His PhD work focused on Trust Based Routing Mechanism in MANET, combining Trust based Routing Algorithms, and Security protocols. The study involved Trust based Routing Algorithms, and control of Trust Management System. He has published more than 22 research papers in Scopus and SCI. ORCID - (https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2651-2509), Scopus ID: 57216271806, 53318740700