Center Directors' Update

Contact

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Introduction from NCICB >

Welcome to this first issue of the caBIG Directors' Update. This newsletter has been created to provide an avenue for Cancer Center Directors to receive quick updates on key issues related to the caBIG (cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid) initiative.

What's New

The purpose of this issue is to let you know about the availability of several key tools and standards being used to support the caBIG initiative that may meet some of your Center's needs now or in the future. To provide you with rapid access to these tools, a new section has been created on the caBIG website called "Center Directors' Quick Links" which can be found at the following URL: http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov/caBIG/cd/quicklinks

As discussed at the recent Cancer Center Directors' Retreat with Dr. von Eschenbach, the following NCICB tools and standards are available for use right now (via the Center Directors' Quick Links web page):

C3D

C3D is a caBIG-compatible remote data capture solution, implemented using standardized vocabularies and common data elements. It is available as both a web-accessible application service provider (ASP) solution hosted at the NCICB, or as a system entirely deployed at participating Cancer Centers. The application is available via the Center Directors' Quick Links web page or at the following URL:http://trials.nci.nih.gov/projects/datamanagement/c3d

caBIG Clinical Protocols Portal

The caBIG Clinical Protocols Portal is a web based application that allows researchers to share their clinical trial protocols among members of the caBIG community. In addition to storing the Protocol Document, the system collects data related to the trial including Primary Sites, Participating Sites, Endpoints, Start/End Dates, Accruals, Type, Phase, Organ site, Study medications, and Regimen. Users can then retrieve information about specific trials by searching the system for clinical trials based on various criteria including title and description keywords, phase, and performance site. Submitters may elect to allow other researchers to download their Protocol Document, or may choose to keep it private. Submitters and Administrators also have the ability to update and edit the information about the trial, including the accruals, as needed.

Accounts have already been created for Center Directors, so the portal can

be used immediately. To obtain your username and password, you or your representative may contact NCICB Applications Support at NCICB@pop.nci.nih.gov or by phone 888-478-4423 or 301-451-4384. Additional accounts for your Cancer Center staff can be created upon request through NCICB Applications Support.   The application is available via the Center Directors' Quick Links web page or at the following URL: http://caBIGprotocols.nci.nih.gov

caDSR

NCICB supports a broad initiative to standardize the meta-data used for cancer research. These Common Data Elements (CDEs) follow industry standards (ISO11179) and are developed by various NCI-sponsored organizations, then centrally stored and managed at NCICB in the Cancer Data Standards Repository (caDSR). The caDSR has a web interface, and a PL/SQL API for programmatic access. The application is available via the Center Directors' Quick Links web page or at the following URL: http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/core/caDSR/

EVS

One of the foundations of data sharing is the use of a controlled vocabulary. The NCICB has developed an infrastructure to meet this need through a diverse collection of Enterprise Vocabulary Services (EVS). The caBIG project will continue the development of standard vocabularies for a variety of settings in cancer research. The application is available via the Center Directors' Quick Links web page or at the following URL: http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/core/EVS

A more comprehensive list of tools, infrastructure and data can be found in the Inventory section of the caBIG website at http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov/caBIG/inventory.

Oracle Clinical Licenses

NCI has negotiated discounted licenses for Oracle Clinical. These are available now for use by Cancer Centers regardless of whether or not the C3D framework is used by the Center. For information on how to obtain an Oracle Clinical license through NCICB and the associated costs, please contact NCICB Applications Support at NCICB@pop.nci.nih.gov or by phone 888-478-4423 or 301-451-4384.

Going Forward

It is part of caBIG's mission to provide access to helpful tools and data to address cancer research needs as expediently as possible. As caBIG project activities continue and more tools, products, and data become available, those tools will become accessible via the caBIG website at http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov/caBIG/inventory.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support of the caBIG initiative. From its earliest beginnings, caBIG has been developed in close partnership with the Cancer Center community, and we greatly value our ongoing collaboration with all of the Centers.

Kenneth H. Buetow, PhD

Director

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