BRICS Wins Award at Bio-IT World Conference and Expo 2017

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

The Biomedical Research Informatics Computing System (BRICS) won the Best Practices Judges' Choice award at the 15th Annual Bio-IT World Conference and Expo held in Boston on May 23-25.

Bio-IT World honors excellence in bioinformatics, basic and clinical research, and IT frameworks for biology and drug discovery through its Best Practices awards. The project was recognized because BRICS is committed to building tools that empower effective data sharing--a fundamental attribute of data informatics.

"This award recognizes the exceptional work the team has produced in support of accelerating health science research," said Matthew McAuliffe, Ph.D., chief of the Biomedical Imaging Research Services Section at CIT. "BRICS is committed to compliance with the FAIR principles—Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability—for scientific data. These principles are an integral part of the concepts behind the NIH's Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) effort."

BRICS began as a joint effort among CIT, HHS, NIH, NINDS, and the Department of Defense about seven years ago. The web-based system enables researchers to collect data efficiently and analyze it to support research studies and clinical trials. The system uses a set of "plug and play" components that can be shared across disease categories or used independently, depending on researchers' needs. The components provide a combination of web-based functionality and downloadable tools that cover all stages of the research process.

BRICS promotes data sharing and collaboration across research studies and clinical trials to shorten the time between discoveries in research and developing treatments that will improve lives. Some highlights of the system include:

- BRICS helps researchers standardize, define, contribute, and access data throughout the research process. The platform helps reduce the number of isolated, unrelated datasets in the research it is used with. It also allows researchers to assemble and search genetic, phenotypic, clinical, and medical imaging data.
- BRICS's advances help researchers work through technical and political challenges that often come with data sharing. This helps ensure that biomedical resources are used efficiently.
- BRICS's plug-and-play modules allow different research communities to customize and use BRICS based on their specific needs. BRICS currently contains over 1.7 million records across its seven disease instances.
- BRICS supports a host of federal health data-sharing initiatives for different diseases and conditions. These include the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research (FITBIR) informatics system, the Parkinson's Disease Biomarkers Program's (PDBP) Data Management Resource, and the National Eye Institute's National Ophthalmic Disease Genotyping and Phenotyping Network (eyeGENE)

Get more information about BRICS.