

# Index of NCI Studies (INS) Release Notes

Newest release listed first

---

## INS Minor Security Release (v1.3.0)

**AUG 31, 2023**

---

### Summary

The Minor Security Release of the Index of NCI Studies (INS) is available now at [studycatalog.cancer.gov](https://studycatalog.cancer.gov). The primary focus of this release is to perform maintenance and security updates. Though important, these types of updates are generally not visible to a visitor to the site. However, we have also included updated graphics and animations on the Home Page along with various bugfixes and visual polish throughout the site.

The underlying data remains unchanged in this release.

### Home page

- Added mouseover rotation animation to the INS hero image
- Improved responsive design to allow the hero image to better fit a wider range of screen sizes

### General updates

- Updated the INS backend to the Bento Framework v4.10
- Updated backend packages to improve security
- Employed Search Engine Optimization strategy to help users find the site
- Improved formatting of CSV downloads and download buttons
- Improved browser tab behavior for external links in global footer

[End of Release Notes for the INS v1.3.0. Release Notes for earlier updates listed below.]

## INS Core Project Remodel (v1.2.0)

MAY 4, 2023

---

### Summary

The “Core Project Remodel” of the Index of NCI Studies (INS) is available now at [studycatalog.cancer.gov](https://studycatalog.cancer.gov). The primary focus of this release is to reorganize the data and display of the INS to center around (core) projects rather than grants, which addresses one of the major improvements identified in the initial release.

As before, we are only including outputs from projects funded at least in part by **extramural grants** associated with the **Moonshot** and **Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI)**. The task of identifying and defining programs remains a challenge to be addressed in future releases of the INS.

## KEY FEATURES

### Overview

- Redesigned data architecture to organize grants (formerly known as projects within the INS) into groups of grants. Those groups are now called projects and become the focal point of the INS
  - Redesigned the Project Details Page to focus on one project with all associated grants and outputs displayed. Project descriptions are pulled from the most recently awarded grant, except for the Award Amount Total fields, which display summed values from all associated grants.
  - Added Project Details Page links to all tabs of the Explore Page to quickly find all information for a project from any grant or output of that project
  - Updated Explore Page filters, Programs Page, Program Details Page, and Global Search to reflect the new roles of projects and grants
  - Updated documentation pages (About, Glossary, Release Notes)
- Added animation and updated the Stats Bar Graph image on the Home Page
- Improved data gathering date filters to reduce false positive associations
- Added 3 new manually curated CCDI P30 supplement datasets and projects

### Data Details

This release includes the following data totals:

- 2 Programs
- 350 Projects
- 1,211 Grants
- 4,748 Publications

- 1,388 Datasets
- 349 Clinical Trials
- 117 Patents

**New** in this release of INS are several datasets shared due to CCDI P30 grant supplements to the following organizations:

- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC): [phs003111.v1.p1 | 3P30CA008748-54S3](#)
  - Note: this is an additional dataset shared due to a CCDI P30 grant supplement already associated with another dataset in the INS (phs002620.v1.p1)
- University of Kansas Medical Center: [phs002529.v1.p1 | 3P30CA168524-09S3](#)
- University of Southern California: [phs002518.v1.p1 | 3P30CA014089-45S6](#)

Note that due to the indirect nature of grant supplements, these 3 projects and their outputs were gathered and added to the INS through manual curation rather than the standard automated process.

This release includes a new batch of data gathered using the automated processes. It includes improvements in the preprocessing pipeline to filter out any outputs published before the earliest associated grant was awarded. This helps to limit false positive associations.

Projects, grants, publications, datasets, and clinical trials included in this release were gathered on April 4, 2023. Due to instability in the external source from which we gather Patents (USPTO API) in April, patents included in this release were gathered on March 2, 2023.

[End of Release Notes for the INS v1.2.0. Release Notes for earlier updates listed below.]

## INS Minor Release (v1.1.0)

JAN 5, 2023

---

### Summary

The latest “Minor Release” of the Index of NCI Studies (INS) is available now at [studycatalog.cancer.gov](https://studycatalog.cancer.gov). The primary focus of this release is to introduce several key features and fixes identified in the initial release.

As before, we are only including outputs from **extramural grants** funded through the **Moonshot** and **Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI)**. We intend to address the CCDI data complications mentioned in the site disclaimer in future releases.

## KEY FEATURES

### Overview

- Added 4 manually curated CCDI P30 supplement datasets
- Added buttons for users to download tables as CSV files for easier ad hoc analyses
- Added INS Glossary and INS Release Notes PDFs to the main navigation menu bar
- Added “Publication Date” column to Publications tables
- Removed “NIH Percentile” column from Publications tables
- Redesigned architecture of Project Detail and Program Detail pages to improve performance and table navigation
- Many small UI improvements and bugfixes

### Data Details

This release includes the following data totals:

- 2 Programs
- 1,041 Projects
- 4,098 Publications
- 1,119 Datasets
- 207 Clinical Trials
- 117 Patents

**New** in this release of INS are several datasets shared due to CCDI P30 grant supplement projects to the following organizations:

- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC): [3P30CA008748-54S3](#)
- Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU): [3P30CA069533-22S5](#)
- Baylor College of Medicine: [3P30CA125123-14S6](#)
- University of California, San Francisco (UCSF): [3P30CA082103-21S9](#)

Note that due to the indirect nature of grant supplements, these 4 projects and their outputs were gathered and added to the INS through manual curation rather than the standard automated process.

The data in this release uses the same automated data gathering output as previous releases of INS (09/26/2022 for Projects, Publications, and Patents; 05/26/2022 for Datasets and Clinical Trials) but improves the curation to remove duplicates and other minor display issues. As mentioned above, it also includes 4 manually curated CCDI projects and their datasets.

[End of Release Notes for the INS v1.1.0. Release Notes for earlier updates listed below.]

## INS Disclaimer Release (v1.0.1)

### NOV 18, 2022

---

### Summary

The latest “Disclaimer Release” of the Index of NCI Studies (INS) is available now at [studycatalog.cancer.gov](https://studycatalog.cancer.gov). The primary focus of this small release is to add additional information about challenges faced and known limitations of the initial phase of the INS.

Building connections between NCI programs, grants, and outputs is a complex task usually addressed through manual curation by portfolio analysis experts. As we work to automate the process and share this resource with the public, we would like to inform you of the known limitations within the data gathering process and information displayed by the INS. We are working on improving data gathering process and will periodically release updates which allows us to iteratively improve the INS site.

Note that the underlying data remains unchanged in this release.

### Home page

- Added disclaimer banner to the header
- Changed title text and subtext to highlight known limitations

### About page

- Added “Gathering Research Outputs: A Continuous Challenge” section to describe known limitations in detail

### General improvements

- Improved neo4j queries on Project Detail pages to avoid potential memory overload errors

[End of Release Notes for the INS v1.0.1. Release Notes for earlier updates listed below.]

## INS Initial Release (v1.0.0)

OCT 11, 2022

---

### Summary

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is pleased to announce the release of the **Index of NCI Studies (INS)** at [studycatalog.cancer.gov](https://studycatalog.cancer.gov).

The INS is a new website that gathers and displays publicly available information about research outputs from NCI-funded programs. The goal of the INS is to encourage an environment of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data sharing and to reinforce the NCI's commitment to transparency and accountability as the nation's leader in cancer research.

The intent of the **initial phase** of the INS is to solicit feedback for further expansion of this tool, which is limited in both scope and scale by design. The current site focuses on gathering data outputs associated with **extramural grants** from two key NCI programs: the **Cancer Moonshot** and the **Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI)**.

## KEY FEATURES

### Overview

This release includes the following pages and features:

- Home page
- Explore page
  - 1,037 Projects
  - 4,121 Publications
  - 1,121 Shared Datasets
  - 207 Clinical Trials
  - 117 Patents
- Programs page
  - 2 Programs
- About page
- Project Detail page
- Program Detail page
- Global Search Bar & Results page

## Home page

<https://studycatalog.cancer.gov/#/home>

The Home page is the intended landing page for users viewing the site. It provides introductory information about the INS and links to other pages. Users can navigate to the Home page with a link in the main navigation bar.

## Explore page

<https://studycatalog.cancer.gov/#/explore>

The Explore page provides comprehensive lists of projects and research outputs in the site and is the primary page for browsing projects and research outputs. Users can navigate to the Explore page with a link in the main navigation bar. The tables contain 5 tabs with tables grouped by project or research output type:

- Projects
- Publications
- Datasets
- Clinical Trials
- Patents

Research outputs generally have an external link to allow users to navigate to the source output directly. Projects show an internal link that take a user to the Projects view page.

The lists of projects and research outputs can be dynamically filtered by several project attributes listed below. Donut charts provide basic project metrics and are updated as filters are applied.

- PROGRAM
- DIVISION/OFFICE/CENTER (DOC)
- FISCAL YEAR
- AWARD AMOUNT

## Programs page

<https://studycatalog.cancer.gov/#/programs>

The Programs page lists the programs currently included within the INS, along with links and basic metrics associated with each. Each row contains both an external link to a program's website and an internal link to the INS Program Detail page for that program. Currently, this page shows only the two programs included in



the initial release of the INS: Moonshot and CCDI. Users can navigate to the Programs page with a link in the main navigation bar.

## About page

<https://studycatalog.cancer.gov/#/about>

The About page gives an overview of the INS project, data gathering process, and site functionality. Users can navigate to the About page with a link in the main navigation bar.

## Project Detail page

<https://studycatalog.cancer.gov/#/project/1U01CA217885-01> (example)

The Project Detail page gives detailed information concerning a specific project, categorized into sections for Basic Info, PI and Organization, and Award information. In addition, the Project Detail page contains tables listing research outputs associated with the parent project. Tables for different types of research outputs can be accessed by clicking on the corresponding tab (Publications, GEOS, SRAs, dbGaPs, Clinical Trials, or Patents). The tables accessible within this page are a subset of the data accessible via the Explore page.

## Program Detail page

<https://studycatalog.cancer.gov/#/program/Moonshot> (example)

The Program Detail page gives detailed information concerning a specific program. This includes sections for basic descriptive information, external links, and donut charts of selected metrics. In addition, the Program Detail page contains a table of all associated projects. The table accessible within this page is a subset of the data accessible via the Explore page.

## Global Search Bar & Results page

<https://studycatalog.cancer.gov/#/search/>

The Global Search Bar accepts searches of Project details and About page contents and returns the relevant Project Detail page or About page section via the Results page. The search function currently only accepts exact prefix matches. For example, searching for project ID “1U01CA217885-01” will successfully return the project, but “U01CA217885-01” will not. Improving this search functionality will be a priority for future releases.