Data Sharing of NCI-Sponsored Cancer Screening Trials

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News from NCI's Office of Data Sharing

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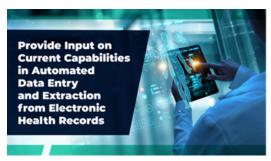
Data Sharing of NCI-Sponsored Cancer Screening Trials

During 2011-2012, two landmark NCI-sponsored cancer screening trials, the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (PLCO) screening trial and the National Lung Screening Trial (NLST), published primary outcome results. To facilitate broad access to the data and images from these trials, NCI developed the Cancer Data Access System (CDAS) website.

Since its inception, CDAS has expanded to include additional studies such as early phase chemoprevention trials, a dietary intake study, and legacy cancer screening trials. Individual-level de-identified data are available for all CDAS studies. Images, including low-dose CT images from NLST, digitized chest radiographs from PLCO, and pathology images from both studies, are available for download. The CT images are also available for viewing and downloading through Imaging Data Commons/The Cancer Imaging Archive. The CDAS website includes extensive documentation for each study including summaries, trial questionnaires, data dictionaries, and design summaries.

To obtain the desired data, investigators log in to CDAS and complete a short online form, providing basic investigator information and a short research proposal, which are assessed by NCI staff for feasibility but not scientific merit. Upon approval, investigators complete a Data Use Agreement (DUA) and gain access to trial data through the CDAS data portal. Due to the studies' complexity, multiple standardized data sets have been created to allow easier use by the community. Other support is made available to assist applicants in determining which of the available data sets would be most appropriate for their project. If necessary, staff can create a customized data set for specific use cases.

CDAS has been operational since November 2012, facilitating numerous research projects. For PLCO (a large epidemiologic cohort as well as a screening trial), research projects span a wide range of content areas, including cancer screening, etiology, risk prediction, survival analysis, and statistical methods. Regarding NLST, in addition to analyses of the trial itself, slightly over half of the applications involved obtaining low-dose CT images to perform deep-learning or artificial intelligence analyses, primarily with the aim of identifying and classifying lung nodules. PLCO and NLST have reached significant milestones in approved projects, with PLCO having 1245 approved projects and NLST nearing 1000.

Announcements

The [Childhood Cancer Data Initiative](#) (CCDI) is seeking your input to assist NCI in using electronic health record (EHR) data to accelerate progress in childhood cancer research. Share your capabilities in automated EHR data entry and extraction by responding to the latest [Request for information](#) by 2/29/2024.

[AI Data Readiness Challenge for the NCI Cancer Research Data Commons (CRDC).](#) Phase 1 open until 03/01/24, seeking to engage the research community to identify considerations and gaps related to the AI readiness of CRDC data, and to promote best practices regarding how future data can be generated to be compatible with downstream AI applications.

Dr. Daniella Lowenberg, a Senior Advisor for Data Governance from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), will give a talk titled *Defining the Need for Open Data Metrics* at NCI on March 6, 2024. [Register here](#).

Meredith Broussard, an expert in AI ethics and using data analysis for social good, will give the 2024 NLM Science, Technology, and Society Lecture on "Confronting Race, Gender, & Ability Bias in Tech" on March 6th at 2pm in Building 45. The lecture will be broadcast [here](#). You may submit any questions to Maryam.zaringhalam@nih.gov.

We'd love to hear from you! Contact the ODS team at: nciofficeofdatasharing@mail.nih.gov

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