Happy New Year - Upcoming ODS Events in 2026

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News from NCI's Office of Data Sharing

January 2026

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Happy New Year from ODS

Happy New Year, to our fellow data sharing followers and afficionados! We, in ODS, are excited to welcome in 2026 with a line up of interactive educational events and strategic discussions that will help to make the cancer data NCI funds user-friendly for all types of investigation. Our primary "resolution" remains to ensure that the scientific findings of NCI studies can be maximally beneficial to cancer patients, survivors and their families. Whether it's from rigorous validation of all types of cancer research through to innovative new discoveries that can be readily translated in the clinic to prevent or cure malignancies, we believe consistent, high-quality management and distribution of cancer data is key to driving the greatest impact. In close partnership with each of you, we WILL meet those goals, better and faster together!

As a teaser of what is to come, I challenge our community to check out the NCI Data Sharing Hub released only a few months ago. It's a one-stop shop to find helpful information about…

- Scientific data expectations along the full lifecycle – from concept, to generation, to public sharing, to eventual sunset; learn about data management, sharing and public access policies for NCI funding, best practices for using data standards and ontologies, FAIR repositories that allow cancer data to be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable, and the many tools and resources that make query, submission, and analysis possible for NCI cancer research products
- ODS Events and workshops – like our NCI Annual Data Sharing Symposium (recordings and summaries available), monthly webinar series, and recent pediatric data jamboree. Our site is continually updated with events in real time as they arise through the year
- Resources and tools for NCI data – this includes access links to DMS plan templates and tips, NCI and NIH data repositories and analysis tools, and research product resources (data, publications, tools and models) including our own Index of NCI Studies (where you can learn about key NCI-funded initiatives and access associated resources
- Easy to navigate data processes – be guided through writing comprehensive data management and sharing plans, submitting or requesting access to sensitive research data that requires access controls, and ensuring that data are used within government security compliant systems

It would be impossible to succeed in our mission without the support and insight of the full cancer research community. We invite each of you to provide us with your insights, engage us in active dialogue and ask questions that we can explore together. The new year brings fresh opportunities to dream big and set our sights on lofty goals. Thank you for joining us on this journey, and may 2026 bring with it great advances in how we use data to drive cures for cancer!

ODS Events

NCI ODS Data Jamboree Seminar Series - January

Date and Time: January 13, 2026, 11:00 am-1:00 pm ET

The National Cancer Institute (NCI)'s Office of Data Sharing (ODS) will kick off a monthly webinar series for jamboree project teams to share their findings, lessons learned, and future directions in January! ODS launched its inaugural data jamboree focusing on pediatric and AYA cancer on September 29 – 30, 2025, in conjunction with its 3rd Annual Symposium. This event aimed to overcome barriers in finding, accessing, and utilizing cancer research data, facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations, and gain real-time feedback. In 1.5 days, 23 interdisciplinary project teams formed to tackle specific problems in 6 broad project categories, including enhancing data interoperability, building cohorts, developing or validating informatics tools and pipelines, evaluating data quality and AI-readiness, integrating data, and developing tutorials and educational materials.

Moderator: Emily Boja

Speakers: James Galbraith and Lucy Han, Booz Allen Hamilton: Practical Quality Assessment & Enrichment of Childhood/AYA Cancer Datasets. Gavriel Matt, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: Identifying and Annotating Variants Associated with Headaches in Childhood Cancer Survivors. David Higgins, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: Tutorial and Example Notebooks for the Kids First Variant Workbench. Michael Sierk, National Cancer Institute. VCF Table Viewer: Interactive Visualization of VCF Files from Childhood Cancer Data Initiative.

NCI Annual Data Symposium: Navigating Risk in Sharing Cancer Data and Confronting Challenges to Sharing Cancer Data

Date and Time: Wednesday January 28, 2026, 1:00-4:00 pm ET

Join us as panels planned for the [ODS Symposium](#) are presented in virtual format

Navigating Risk in Sharing Cancer Data: Sharing cancer data accelerates scientific discovery and promotes innovation across disciplines, which brings complex ethical, legal, and procedural challenges. This panel will share practical experiences; current frameworks and examples; and emerging tools for ethical, secured and FAIR cancer data sharing to help shape the standards that will define responsible data sharing for years to come.

Confronting Challenges to Sharing Cancer Data: Discussion of resources, incentives, obstacles and solutions to confront barriers to effective, efficient and equitable data sharing, including difficult to share data and less common cancer data types.

Speakers: Joseph Dean, PhD (Iovance Biotherapeutics), Peter Kraft, PhD (NCI), Lucila Ohno-Machado, MD, PhD, MBA (Yale School of Medicine), Kurt Rohloff, PhD (Duality Technologies), Christopher Amos, PhD (UNM Cancer Center), James DuBois, DSc, PhD (WashU Medicine), Scarlett Gomez, PhD, MPH (UCSF School of Medicine), James Lacey, PhD, MPH (City of Hope Cancer Center), Richard Moser, PhD (NCI)

NCI ODS Data Jamboree Seminar Series - February

[Registration](#).

Date and Time: February 24, 2026, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM ET

Description: The National Cancer Institute (NCI)'s Office of Data Sharing (ODS) will continue a monthly webinar series for jamboree project teams to share their findings, lessons learned, and future directions in February!

Moderator: Emily Boja, NCI ODS

Speakers: Mamie Lih, Johns Hopkins University. Brian Furner, University of Chicago. Eric Durbin, University of Kentucky, and Fernanda Silva Michels, North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). Gregory Wheeler, University of Galway, and Rakesh Katana, National Cancer Institute. Yanling Sun, Baylor College of Medicine.

Announcements

The Index of NCI Studies (INS) v3.2.0 Is Now Available

The newest release of the [Index of NCI Studies (INS)](#) introduces support for direct download of open-access datasets from the [Cancer Target Discovery and Development (CTD²) Network](#).

The platform has also been redesigned with improved search capabilities, dynamic filtering, and flexible dataset displays to better serve researchers accessing NCI data. This update advances the INS mission to make cancer research data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR), with the new architecture enabling support for additional data resources in the future. Additional details are available in the [full release notes](#).

[NIH Issues Request for Information on Draft Proposal Harmonizing Research Participant Data Policies](#)

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is requesting public input on its proposal to establish harmonized and transparent policy requirements for protecting human participant research data. Specifically, NIH proposes to:

(1) establish policy requirements for which data should be controlled-access under NIH data sharing policies, and
(2) revise the NIH Genomic Data Sharing Policy to simplify and harmonize requirements.

Provide feedback using the [Comment Form](#) by **March 4, 2026**.

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

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