

Pancreapedia: Building an Online Pancreatic Research Community

MLibrary Lightning Talks, July 2012

Home slide

- PTG focus: 1. publishing platforms; 2. developing community-based tools for scholarly publishing; 3. development support for all of MPublishing

Slide 1: What is Pancreapedia?

- Expedite research by providing access to research methods, relevant reference material
- Peer reviewed & non- peer review content, and community tools

Slide 2: Features of Pancreapedia

- Reviews: comprehensive summary of relevant topics (e.g., history, important publications)
- Pathways: explore how pancreas & rest of body communicate and function; mechanisms behind pathologies of pancreas
- Molecutes, cell structures and research tools
- Community section – member directory, events pages and job listings

Slide 3: Why exocrine pancreas?

- Unique diseases (e.g., pancreatic cancer, pancreatitis, diabetes)
- Two distinct sets of functions
 - *Endocrine*: hormones like insulin
 - *Exocrine*: enzymes digestion food
- Research distinct for both
 - Own journals, grants, conferences
- Endocrine community smaller (~1-2K), unmet needs (E.g., book on methods, directory of researchers)

Slide 4: Inception

- Dr. John Williams completed 21yrs as chair of Dept. of Molecular & Integrative Physiology
 - Looking for project
- Talking to colleagues
 - 2009, meeting, coined “Pancreapedia”
- Merle, librarian at Health Sciences Libraries
 - Enthusiastic; introduced colleagues @ MPub

Slide 5: Development

- 2009, student group at SI created prototype in

Drupal

- Early 2010, MPub agreed to develop & host site
 - Devon Persing
- Simultaneously, promoting at conferences, meetings
 - Created editorial board ~50ppl
- Considerable dev effort, launch early 2012

Slide 6: Publishing

- Major challenge in getting content contributed
 - Long tradition of publishing in more tradition journals
 - Ties to hiring, tenure, reputation
 - Challenge to demonstrate Panc series publisher
 - DOI

Slide 7: 80% curation, 20% social networking

- Content contributed takes work
- Dr. Williams & editorial board (1) decide content, (2) identify contributors, (3) contact contributors, and (4) mount

Slide 8: Building community & content

- Building community by asking ppl sign up
 - Conferences, labs, emailing indiv, asking PIs to sign up lab

Slide 9: Current users & content

- Working hard 400 users -> 1000-2000 potential users
- B/c directory & social tools, as well as content -> tipping point
 - Panc will be the go-to place
 - Promote itself

Slide 10: Moving forward

- Process building Panc + community bottom-up
 - Not mandated funding/external agency
 - Researcher scratching real itch in his community
- Panc remains responsive to needs of users & provide sustainable community-based publishing model (hopefully emulated other communities)