

**caBIG**

*cancer Biomedical  
Informatics Grid*

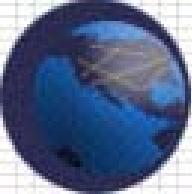


**caBIG** *cancer Biomedical  
Informatics Grid*

Interactive Overview

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### caBIG defined

caBIG (cancer **B**iomedical **I**nformatics **G**rid) is a cancer research platform that promises to expedite progress in cancer research. It will create a network that links organizations, institutions and individuals to enable the sharing of cancer research infrastructure, data and tools.

caBIG is distinctive in a number of important ways:

- Joins the various fields of cancer research - from etiologic research to prevention, early detection and treatment
- Being designed and built by an open federation of organizations
- Based on common standards
- Being developed according to open source and open access principles



### caBIG defined

- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities
- A closer look
- Measuring progress
- Impact
- Getting involved
- More information





### Why caBIG is needed now - challenges facing cancer research

The cancer research environment is changing:

- Explosion of information generated by new methods and technologies
- Exponential growth in our ability to characterize and understand cancer
- Push for trans-disciplinary team science

These advances improve our ability to eliminate the suffering and death due to cancer.

However - the benefits of these advances are being inhibited by a critical set of challenges facing the cancer research community:

- Obstacles to sharing and integration of data and lack of common data standards for data sharing
- No unifying infrastructure for cancer research technologies and lack of common standards for bioinformatics tools

caBIG defined

#### Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

Facts and activities

A closer look

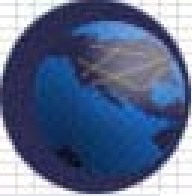
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### Why caBIG is needed now - challenges facing cancer research

caBIG seeks to address these challenges by creating a community-based network or grid that enables cancer researchers to easily share tools, data and infrastructure according to agreed, common standards.

With caBIG, the community has come together to provide structure and resources to:

- Enable innovative research teams to be connected with other research activities and data sources
- Facilitate connections between geographically dispersed groups and individuals in different scientific areas

The creation of the caBIG network will also support key HHS, NIH and NCI goals – including NCI's 2015 challenge goal to eliminate the suffering and death due to cancer.

caBIG defined

#### Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

Facts and activities

A closer look

Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





## Beneficiaries of caBIG

Any cancer researcher, research institution or company who chooses to participate in caBIG stands to benefit.

caBIG offers the benefits of:

- Open access to a rich source of community developed, interoperable tools, shared data and standards
- The ability to participate and contribute without compromising individual innovation and creativity

caBIG defined

Challenge

**Beneficiaries**

Participants so far

Facts and activities

A closer look

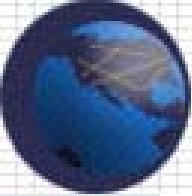
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### caBIG Participants so far

During the caBIG pilot phase:

- NCI and the NCI-designated Cancer Centers have been the primary groups involved since the caBIG pilot started in July 2003. NCI is committed to partnering with the Cancer Center community and ensuring their needs are met
- Cancer Center participants will continue to guide the development, evaluation and adaptation of the caBIG initiative throughout the pilot

As the grid is established:

- Additional nodes will be added to the caBIG network from within NCI, other NIH institutes and interested federal health agencies, industry groups and the broader biomedical research community

Ultimately:

- caBIG will hopefully become a large community of voluntary participants from national and international biomedical research fields

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

**Participants so far**

Facts and activities

A closer look

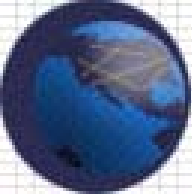
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information



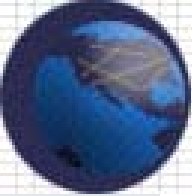


## caBIG Facts and activities

Comprehensive information on caBIG facts and activities to date is available on the caBIG website at: <http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov>.

To see an overview of key facts and activities – select the areas you are interested in knowing more about from the items in the panel on the right side of your screen.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities**
  - ➔ Goals
  - ➔ Activities to date
  - ➔ Structure
  - ➔ Participants (2004)
  - ➔ Technical principles
  - ➔ Support for caBIG activities
- A closer look
- Measuring progress
- Impact
- Getting involved
- More information



### caBIG Facts and activities – Goals

The key goals of the caBIG pilot phase are as follows:

- Illustrate that a spectrum of Cancer Centers with varying needs and capabilities can be joined in a common network of shared data, applications, and technologies
- Demonstrate that Cancer Centers, in collaboration with NCI, will develop new enabling tools and systems that could support multiple Cancer Centers
- Demonstrate that Cancer Centers will actively use the network and realize greater value in their cancer research endeavors by using the network
- Create an extensible infrastructure that will continue to be expanded and extended to members of the Cancer Research community



caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

**Facts and activities**

**Goals**

Activities to date

Structure

Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

Measuring progress

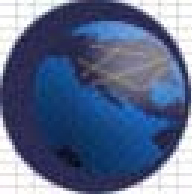
Impact

Getting involved

More information





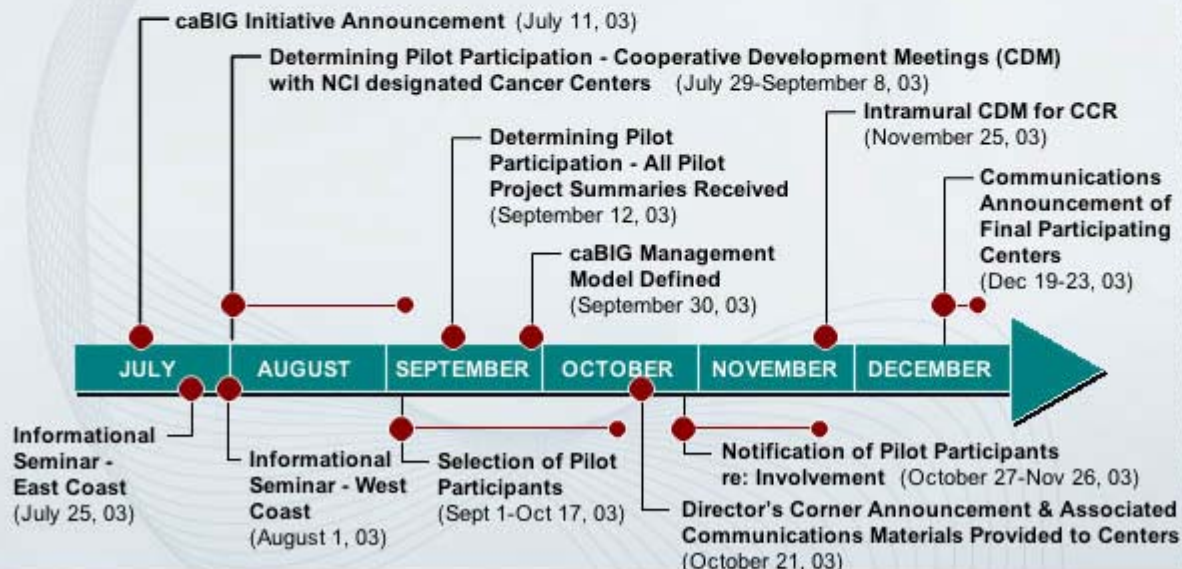


### caBIG Facts and activities – Activities to date

2003 – Initiation and planning:

caBIG activities during 2003 were focused primarily on the initiation and planning of the pilot structure and activities. During this time, the NCI-designated Cancer Center community was closely engaged (via informational seminars and face-to-face Cooperative Development Meetings) to elicit their ideas, needs and capabilities. Pilot participants were selected from the Cancer Center Community and the final structure of the caBIG organization was defined.

In 2004, the caBIG pilot project activities will be initiated.



caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

#### Activities to date

└ 2003 - Initiation and planning

Structure

Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

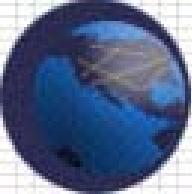
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

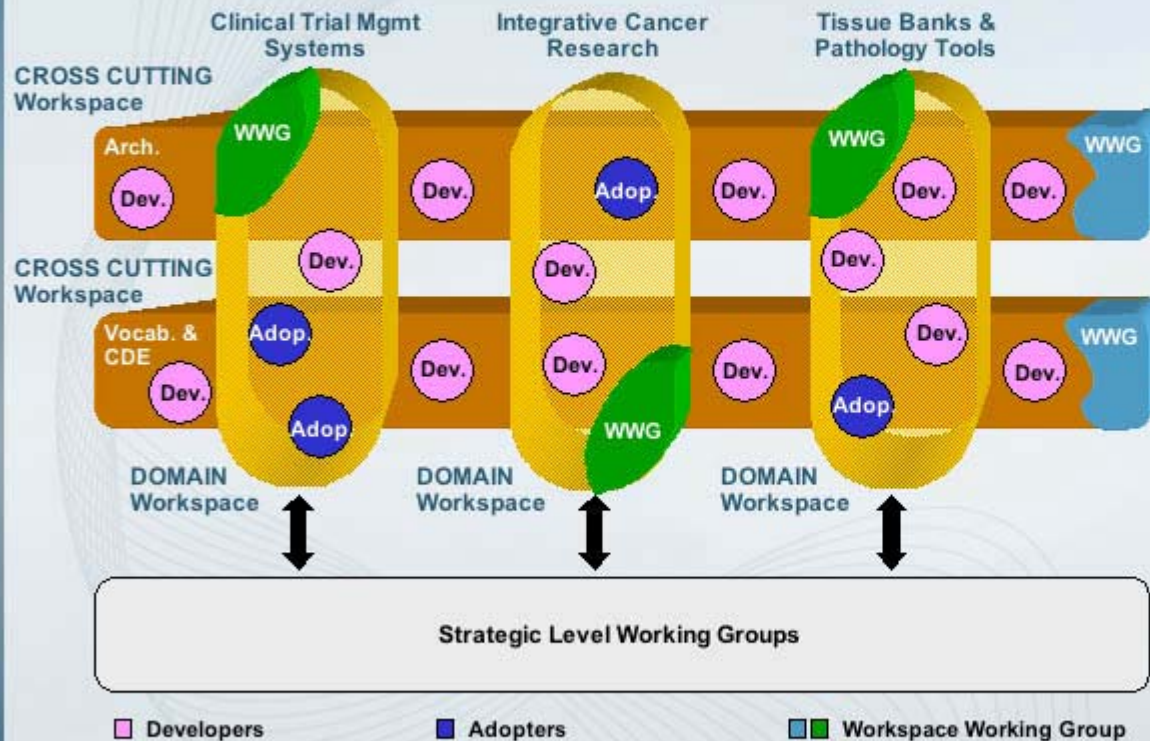
More information





### caBIG Facts and activities – Structure

The overall structure of the caBIG pilot is shown in the diagram below. An overview of these elements is given subsequent to the diagram.



caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

#### Structure

Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### caBIG Facts and activities – Structure

The central elements of the caBIG pilot organization are the Workspaces. Workspaces are defined as areas or virtual environments where caBIG pilot activities are grouped. Each Workspace includes projects or activities with a common focus and addresses an area of need as identified by the Cancer Center Community. [View a table with additional details.](#)

The Workspaces are divided into two groups according to their specific focus areas: Domain Workspaces and Cross Cutting Workspaces.

Within individual Workspaces, participants undertake project level activities as Developers and Adopters. Based on the identified needs, specific software products and solutions (e.g., standards, documentation) are developed by Developers and tested, validated and applied by Adopters. The final products or solutions are shared amongst the caBIG community.

The supporting elements of the caBIG organization are the Working Groups. Working Groups provide guidance and support to the caBIG pilot Workspaces and to the initiative as a whole.

There are two main types of Working Groups: the Strategic Level Working Groups and Workspace Working Groups. Together the Working Groups play a synergistic role, even though the exact focus of each group varies according to its functions. Collaboration amongst the various Working Groups enhances their ability to support the overarching goals of the caBIG initiative.

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

**Facts and activities**

Goals

Activities to date

**Structure**

Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

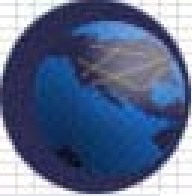
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### caBIG Facts and activities – Participants (2004)

The NCI-designated Cancer Centers participating in the caBIG pilot are listed below according to the various caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups.

Select a Workspace or Strategic Level Working Group of interest for details.

#### Workspace (and associated Working Group):

Clinical Trial Management Systems

Integrative Cancer Research

Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

Architecture

#### Strategic Level Working Group:

Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital

Strategic Planning

Training

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

#### Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

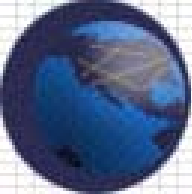
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





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Integrative Cancer Research

Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

Architecture

#### Strategic Level Working Group:

Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital

Strategic Planning

Training

- Case Western Reserve University—Ireland
- City of Hope
- Duke University
- Northwestern University—Robert H. Lurie
- University of California Irvine—Chao Family
- University of California, San Francisco
- University of Iowa—Holden
- University of Minnesota
- University of Nebraska—Eppley
- University of Pennsylvania—Abramson
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Wisconsin
- Vanderbilt University—Ingram
- Wake Forest University
- Yale University

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

#### Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

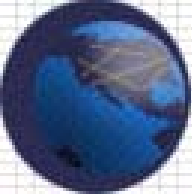
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





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Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

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Architecture

#### Strategic Level Working Group:

Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital

Strategic Planning

Training

- Burnham Institute
- Cold Spring Harbor
- Columbia University—Herbert Irving
- Dartmouth—Norris Cotton
- Duke University
- Fox Chase
- Georgetown University—Lombardi
- Memorial Sloan Kettering
- Meyer L. Prentis—Karmanos
- New York University
- Northwestern University—Robert H. Lurie
- Oregon Health and Science University
- Thomas Jefferson University—Kimmel
- University of California San Francisco
- University of Chicago
- University of Iowa—Holden
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina—Lineberger
- University of Pennsylvania—Abramson
- University of South Florida—H. Lee Moffitt
- Vanderbilt University—Ingram
- Washington University—Siteman
- Wistar

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

#### Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

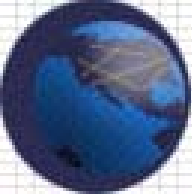
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





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#### Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

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Architecture

#### Strategic Level Working Group:

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Strategic Planning

Training

- Dartmouth—Norris Cotton
- Indiana University
- Jackson Laboratory
- Johns Hopkins—Sidney Kimmel
- Thomas Jefferson University—Kimmel
- Northwestern University—Robert H. Lurie
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Arizona
- University of North Carolina—Lineberger
- University of Pennsylvania—Abramson
- University of Pittsburgh
- Virginia Commonwealth University—Massey
- Washington University—Siteman

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

#### Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

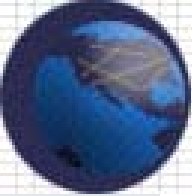
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





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Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

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Architecture

#### Strategic Level Working Group:

Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital

Strategic Planning

Training

- Albert Einstein
- Fred Hutchinson
- Jackson Laboratory
- Mayo Clinic
- University of California—Davis
- University of Hawaii
- University of Pittsburgh

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

#### Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

Measuring progress

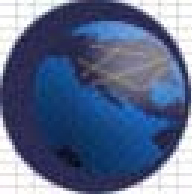
Impact

Getting involved

More information







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Clinical Trial Management Systems

Integrative Cancer Research

Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

- Cold Spring Harbor
- Duke University
- Georgetown University—Lombardi
- Fred Hutchinson
- Ohio State University—Arthur G. James/ Richard J. Solove
- University of Chicago
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Wisconsin
- Washington University—Siteman

#### Architecture

#### Strategic Level Working Group:

Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital

Strategic Planning

Training

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

#### Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

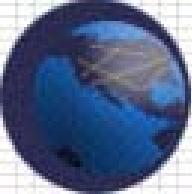
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





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The NCI-designated Cancer Centers participating in the caBIG pilot are listed below according to the various caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups.

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Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

Architecture

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#### Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital

Strategic Planning

Training

- University of Arizona
- City of Hope
- Cold Spring Harbor
- Fred Hutchinson
- Jackson Laboratory
- Johns Hopkins—Sidney Kimmel
- Oregon Health and Science University
- Thomas Jefferson University—Kimmel
- University of Iowa—Holden
- University of North Carolina—Lineberger
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- University of Pittsburgh
- Washington University—Siteman

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

#### Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

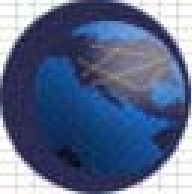
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### caBIG Facts and activities – Participants (2004)

The NCI-designated Cancer Centers participating in the caBIG pilot are listed below according to the various caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups.

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Clinical Trial Management Systems

Integrative Cancer Research

Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

Architecture

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#### Strategic Planning

Training

- City of Hope
- Cold Spring Harbor
- Duke University
- Fox Chase
- Fred Hutchinson
- MD Anderson
- St Jude Children's Research Hospital
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Colorado
- University of Iowa—Holden
- University of Pennsylvania—Abramson
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Southern California—Norris
- University of Vermont
- Washington University—Siteman
- Yale University

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

#### Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

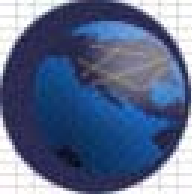
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### caBIG Facts and activities – Participants (2004)

The NCI-designated Cancer Centers participating in the caBIG pilot are listed below according to the various caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups.

Select a Workspace or Strategic Level Working Group of interest for details.

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Clinical Trial Management Systems

Integrative Cancer Research

Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

Architecture

#### Strategic Level Working Group:

Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital

Strategic Planning

#### Training

- Cold Spring Harbor
- Institute for Cancer Prevention
- Johns Hopkins—Sidney Kimmel
- Mayo Clinic
- Oregon Health and Science University
- University of California—Davis
- University of Chicago
- University of Iowa—Holden
- University of Pennsylvania—Abramson
- University of Pittsburgh

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

#### Facts and activities

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

#### Participants (2004)

Technical principles

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### caBIG Facts and activities – Technical principles

caBIG activities will be undertaken according to the following caBIG technical principles:

- Open source
- Open access
- Open Development
- Federated

These principles ensure that caBIG activities are open and accessible to the caBIG community and any others who want to participate.

caBIG's technical principles are aligned with the principles that are the basis for NCI's core bioinformatics infrastructure – caCORE. It is envisaged that caBIG and caCORE activities will be complementary and build on each others' strengths. To support this goal, an Architecture Workspace and a Vocabularies and Common Data Elements Workspace have been established to facilitate coordination and communication between caBIG and caCORE activities.

Additional information on the caCORE infrastructure is available on the NCI Center for Bioinformatics (NCICB) website at <http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/core>.

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

**Facts and activities**

Goals

Activities to date

Structure

Participants (2004)

**Technical principles**

Support for caBIG activities

A closer look

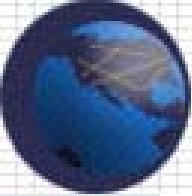
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### caBIG Facts and activities – Support for caBIG activities

NCI is providing resources to establish the caBIG network and to support the pilot project activities. NCI-designated Cancer Centers participating in the pilot will undertake projects and related activities according to agreed Statements of Work and will be funded via contract mechanisms. Support for caBIG pilot activities will be complementary to other mechanisms for bioinformatics support and funding.

Over time, the evolving role of the caBIG Working Groups and the further development of the caBIG community will probably result in changes to the funding and support model for caBIG. The initiative will become more self-supporting and tools and information resources developed within the caBIG community will become increasingly important ways of integrating new efforts into the grid. For example - the caBIG community will provide training resources, support for use and adoption of tools, informational Workshops, and tools to facilitate broader use of caBIG by interested organizations.

The NCI Center for Bioinformatics (NCICB) will also play a key ongoing support role in ensuring consistency, setting standards, and providing information and tools to assist the caBIG community.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities**
  - Goals
  - Activities to date
  - Structure
  - Participants (2004)
  - Technical principles
  - Support for caBIG activities**
- A closer look
- Measuring progress
- Impact
- Getting involved
- More information





### A closer look – caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups

The activities of the caBIG community are undertaken within Workspaces and Working Groups.

To see an overview of the activities of the caBIG Workspaces (and associated Working Groups) and the Strategic Level Working Groups—select the areas you are interested in knowing more about from the items in the panel on the right side of your screen.

More detailed information on the caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups is available on the caBIG website at <http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov>.

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

Facts and activities

**A closer look**

➔ Workspaces

➔ Strategic Working Groups

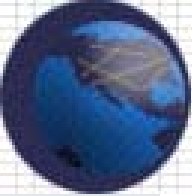
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### A closer look – caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups

#### Clinical Trial Management Systems Workspace (and Working Group)

- The Clinical Trial Management Systems Workspace will address the cancer research community need for consistent, open and comprehensive tools for clinical trials management. These systems will be assembled whenever possible out of existing caBIG-compatible systems and software from a variety of sources, ensuring that maximum leverage will be gained from existing infrastructure.
- Potential Workspace projects may include the adoption of caBIG compliant systems for clinical trials data collection and management as well as the evaluation and testing of new systems currently under development. The Workspace may also develop and test interoperable modules focused on adverse event monitoring and reporting, patient recruitment and retention, chemotherapy and patient management, collection and data management of quality-of-life information, study protocol design, monitoring and reporting on ongoing studies and IRB management.

caBIG defined  
 Challenge  
 Beneficiaries  
 Participants so far  
 Facts and activities

#### A closer look

##### Workspaces

##### Clinical Trial Management Systems

Integrative Cancer Research

Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

Architecture

Strategic Working Groups

Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information







### A closer look – caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups

#### Integrative Cancer Research Workspace (and Working Group)

- The Integrative Cancer Research Workspace will provide tools and systems to enable integration and sharing of information among cancer researchers. These tools will facilitate the integration of data not only from different Centers but also data of different types. This will enable translational and integrative cancer research by providing for the integration of clinical and basic research information between “bench and bedside” as well as from “bench to bench.”
- Tools in this Workspace will cover a wide range of topics, from transcription profiling and proteomics to translational biology and clinical integration.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities

#### A closer look

##### Workspaces

Clinical Trial Management Systems

##### Integrative Cancer Research

Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

Architecture

##### Strategic Working Groups

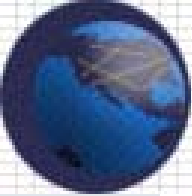
Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### A closer look – caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups

#### Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools Workspace (and Working Group)

- The Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools Workspace will provide for the development, and implementation of tissue and pathology tools. These systems will facilitate integration and provide access to information from geographically-separate locations.
- Researchers will have unprecedented access to tissue and pathology resources, for the first time using a single point of access.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities

#### A closer look

##### Workspaces

- Clinical Trial Management Systems
- Integrative Cancer Research

##### Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

- Vocabularies and Common Data Elements
- Architecture

##### Strategic Working Groups

- Measuring progress
- Impact
- Getting involved
- More information





### A closer look – caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups

#### Vocabularies and Common Data Elements Workspace (and Working Group)

- The Vocabularies and Common Data Elements Cross Cutting Workspace will be responsible for evaluating and integrating systems for vocabulary and ontology content development, as well as software systems for content delivery. They will develop standards for the representation of ontologies and vocabularies used throughout the caBIG system, as well as assessments of existing systems proposed for use within caBIG. Workspace participants will also be responsible for vocabulary and ontology content development, when specific and required content does not exist in a form usable by caBIG.
- By strongly integrating standard vocabularies and data elements at the heart of caBIG projects, cancer researchers can search for and analyze large amounts of different data.

caBIG defined  
 Challenge  
 Beneficiaries  
 Participants so far  
 Facts and activities

#### A closer look

##### Workspaces

- Clinical Trial Management Systems
- Integrative Cancer Research
- Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools

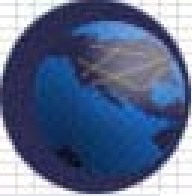
##### Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

- Architecture

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- Measuring progress
- Impact
- Getting involved
- More information





### A closer look – caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups

#### Architecture Workspace (and Working Group)

- The Architecture Workspace will assist in bringing new architectural developments and standards to caBIG, will act as an interface to Information Technology communities developing novel architectures, and will provide architectural expertise and solutions to the other Workspaces.
- With members of the cancer research community providing direct input into the current and future caBIG infrastructure, the entire underlying infrastructure can stay both current and relevant as projects develop.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
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#### A closer look

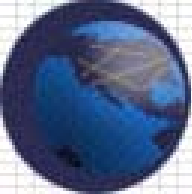
##### Workspaces

- Clinical Trial Management Systems
- Integrative Cancer Research
- Tissue Banks and Pathology Tools
- Vocabularies and Common Data Elements

##### Architecture

- Strategic Working Groups
- Measuring progress
- Impact
- Getting involved
- More information





## A closer look – caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups

### Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital Working Group

This Working Group will address strategic issues related to data sharing and intellectual capital associated with caBIG and develop recommendations to the NCI and caBIG oversight groups. They will also provide expert guidance regarding specific areas of concern raised within caBIG Workspaces and individual project teams associated with these issues.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
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- Facts and activities

#### A closer look

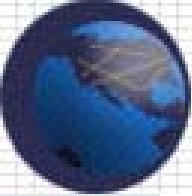
Workspaces

#### Strategic Working Groups

- └ Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital Working Group
- Strategic Planning Working Group
- Training Working Group

- Measuring progress
- Impact
- Getting involved
- More information





### A closer look – caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups

#### Strategic Planning Working Group

This Working Group will assist the NCI and caBIG oversight groups with caBIG strategic planning and vision development activities. Participants will provide strategic insights regarding caBIG's potential role, relationship and interface with other initiatives.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities

#### A closer look

Workspaces

#### Strategic Working Groups

Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital Working Group

**Strategic Planning Working Group**

Training Working Group

Measuring progress

Impact

Getting involved

More information





### A closer look – caBIG Workspaces and Working Groups

#### Training Working Group

This Working Group will help define the framework and standards against which individual Workspaces and Project Groups can develop and communicate about tools and solutions. This will include creating frameworks for online or interactive training, developing templates and skeleton documents for technical manuals, and specifying means for cooperating groups within the Workspaces to collaborate.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities

#### A closer look

Workspaces

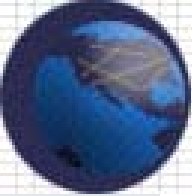
#### Strategic Working Groups

- Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital Working Group
- Strategic Planning Working Group

#### Training Working Group

- Measuring progress
- Impact
- Getting involved
- More information





### Measuring caBIG's progress

The caBIG initiative has tangible milestones and deliverables. As caBIG moves forward, progress towards these goals will be assessed:

- Illustrate that a spectrum of Cancer Centers with varying needs and capabilities can be joined in a common network of shared data, applications, and technologies
- Demonstrate that Cancer Centers, in collaboration with NCI, will develop new enabling tools and systems that could support multiple Cancer Centers
- Demonstrate that Cancer Centers will actively use the network and realize greater value in their cancer research endeavors by using the network
- Create an extensible infrastructure that will continue to be expanded and extended to members of the Cancer Research community

In the long-term, the strongest testimonial to the progress of caBIG will be in the benefits it delivers to cancer sufferers and its ability to bring the NCI 2015 challenge goal to fruition.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities
- A closer look
- Measuring progress**
- Impact
- Getting involved
- More information







## Impact of caBIG – How does it affect me?

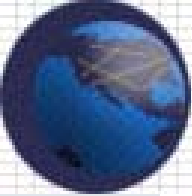
Any interested individual or group is able to access the tools and data that have been developed or shared by the caBIG community:

- An inventory of caBIG infrastructure, applications and datasets is already available on the caBIG website at <http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov/inventory>
- The caBIG inventory will grow rapidly as caBIG pilot project activities add their contributions

Anyone can choose to contribute to the diverse activities of the grid and participate as a member of the caBIG group.

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities
- A closer look
- Measuring progress
- Impact**
- Getting involved
- More information





## Impact of caBIG – Do I need to change what I am doing now?

No. Participation is voluntary.

If you are interested, you are encouraged to:

- Use available caBIG resources as it suits your needs
- Consider integrating tools and data with caBIG where you see value

The caBIG community will provide information and tools to help you participate in caBIG.

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

Facts and activities

A closer look

Measuring progress

**Impact**

Getting involved

More information





## Getting involved with caBIG

Get involved with caBIG right now:

- Track activities on the caBIG website <http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov>.
- Attend open caBIG meetings and open Working Groups. Watch the caBIG website for information on these types of opportunities
- Learn more about NCI's existing bioinformatics infrastructure (caCORE). Further information is available at <http://ncicb.nci.nih.gov/core>.
- Download and get familiar with the tools and applications already available on the caBIG website. The current inventory of infrastructure, applications, and datasets used to support the caBIG initiative can be accessed at <http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov/inventory>.
- Consider how you could integrate your tools and databases into the caBIG community

As the caBIG community grows, the inventory of infrastructure, tools and data will expand and more resources will be available to facilitate participation in caBIG.

caBIG defined

Challenge

Beneficiaries

Participants so far

Facts and activities

A closer look

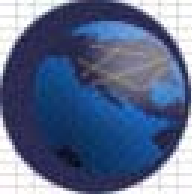
Measuring progress

Impact

**Getting involved**

More information





## More information on caBIG

Additional information on the caBIG initiative is available on the caBIG website at <http://caBIG.nci.nih.gov>.

If you have any questions – please email [caBIGinfo@cancer.gov](mailto:caBIGinfo@cancer.gov).

- caBIG defined
- Challenge
- Beneficiaries
- Participants so far
- Facts and activities
- A closer look
- Measuring progress
- Impact
- Getting involved

### More information