

Building a Better, More Secure Collaborative Platform for Transformative Scientific Research at the Biostatistics Center of the George Washington University

How the Center used Liferay to create a manuscript development system

Summary

With a 49-year history in clinical trials and biostatistical methodology research, the Biostatistics Center (BSC) at the Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) of the George Washington University (GWU) plays a critical role in practice-changing discoveries. The Center seeks to improve public health and clinical practice through research by providing leadership and expertise in the design and execution of research studies. They used Liferay to build a collaborative platform where participating researchers can track, organize, and collaborate on critical research.

biostatcenter.gwu.edu

In Brief

INDUSTRY:

Education/Research

COUNTRY/REGION:

United States

USE CASE:

Research Portal, Intranet

KEY FEATURES:

Site Templates, Roles, Workflow

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With this system, we are able to track each stage of the manuscript process and incorporate checkpoints to ensure manuscripts meet quality standards and reproducibility.

Ashley Hogan Tjaden, Biostatistician at the BSC

Challenges

- Needed a solution that could be customized while fitting security parameters
- Ideal solution would accommodate users of varying technical skills
- Hundreds of users had to be able to share information across multiple sites easily

Results



UNIVERSAL ADOPTION

All research projects use the new system when applicable



WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

2,000 users working on 300 writing group sites



TIMELY REVIEW PROCESSES

Workflows help track manuscript status accurately and securely



REUSABLE CUSTOM FEATURES

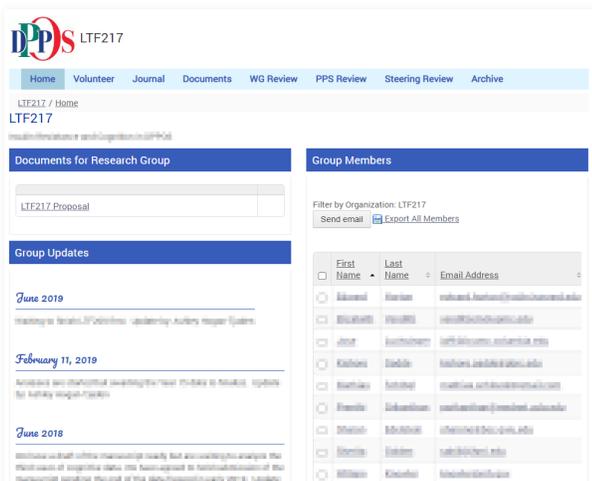
Features and applications built for one study can be repurposed for others

The Need for a More Efficient System for Researchers

Since 1972, the Biostatistics Center (BSC) at the Milken Institute School of Public Health (SPH) of the George Washington University (GWU) has led the way in practice-changing clinical trials and biostatistical methodology research.

Coordinating numerous studies at the same time and working with a large number of researchers globally, the Center needed better content management and a more formalized review and editing process in one place. The current system was proving not feasible for the long-term, slowing reviews down while missing necessary security measures and tracking capabilities.

Having considered other solutions such as Alfresco, Confluence, EMC, eRoom, SharePoint, and even a custom homegrown solution, the team chose Liferay to build out a research portal that also serves as a full-fledged manuscript development system for creating, reviewing, approving, and publishing studies. The new system on Liferay meets the varying and complex needs of the Center, where time-to-publish is of paramount and sometimes ethical importance in the case of federally-funded clinical trials.



A New, Streamlined, and Security-Forward System

With Liferay as their platform, the team at BSC uses features including message boards, Kaleo workflow, asset publishers, and web content display templates to accurately review manuscript proposals, submit feedback and evaluations on manuscripts in progress, and approve manuscripts for publication. Statistics from the Liferay databases are used to track the progress of these manuscripts from proposal through analyses, writing, and review, to journal submission.



In addition, Liferay allows administrators to assign and control permissions on individual projects and resources, protecting sensitive and confidential data and giving only the right people access to specific information.

Almost all studies have adopted the new system, with more than 2,000 users collaborating on over 300 writing group sites for six independent research projects.

Because Liferay is easily customizable and reusable, some researchers have even been able to share the custom features and applications they built in one study with other studies.

Productivity with the new system has gone up, and now that researchers can work with a secure, reliable process that prioritizes timely results, ground-breaking studies can get published faster than ever before.

For more information on Liferay and intranet solutions, contact sales@liferay.com.