



BRICS

Biomedical Research
Informatics Computing System

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Biomedical Research Informatics Computing System (BRICS) quarterly newsletter. We are excited to share some of our most recent achievements and updates with you.



This Quarter our agenda includes:

[About Us](#)

[BRICS Seminars](#)

[What's New](#)

[PDBP Spotlight](#)



About Us

- BRICS is a comprehensive but customizable data science platform designed to efficiently collect, validate, harmonize, and analyze research datasets.

BRICS platform contains many modules that can be customized and even integrated into external software packages as needed.



Learn more about BRICS at: <https://brics.cit.nih.gov>

Seminars Hosted by the BRICS team:

On November 8th, 2023 the BRICS team hosted a Working Group (WG) Seminar where we discussed topics on:

- Innovative approach to clinical trials research: The NIH BRICS Unified platform

- BRICS: Data Science Platform for Accelerating Discovery
- BRICS: Advancing FAIR Data Principles and NIH's 2023 Data Sharing Plan
- National Institute on Aging (NIA) Use Case
- Application Programming Interface (API) Query Tool- Using Python/R
- Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research (FITBIR) Use Case
- Parkinson's Disease Biomarkers Program (PDBP) Use Case
- PDBP Google **Cloud** Migration

The link for the meeting recording and presentation slides can be found [here](#).



2024 Monthly Seminars

- Responding to your interest in learning more about the BRICS features, we are excited to announce a series of monthly demonstrations. The link for the Teams meeting recordings and presentation slides can be found [here](#).
- January 11, 2024, we presented our first seminar focused on the Privacy Preserving Record Linkage (PPRL) and Data Repository modules
- February 8, 2024, Dr. Dominic Nathan presented on Electronic Data Capture (eDC)
- April 11, 2024, we will present Query tool and API access using Python/R

If you would like to be added to the invitation list for future demos, please contact Matthew McAuliffe, PHD at: matthew.mcauliffe@nih.gov



What's New with BRICS

RAVEN RELEASE

(Live since December 16, 2023)

- The Raven release is aimed at improving the functionality and user experience across various modules and components of our system.
- Improved the Meta Study usability and upload/download performance
- Optimized the Submission Tool
- Significant security upgrades
- Significant usability improvements across various modules

Please review the detailed release notes [here](#) for a comprehensive overview of the changes and updates included in this version.

Researcher Auth Service (RAS) RELEASE

With RAS, NIH-supported data systems delegate important identity and access controls to this central NIH service – NIH RAS. For researchers working in the NIH data ecosystem, NIH RAS provides multifactor authentication in a single sign-on (SSO) experience that enhances the user experience when searching for and accessing NIH’s open and controlled data assets.

For more information about RAS please visit: <https://datascience.nih.gov/researcher-auth-service-initiative>.

RAS PHASE 1a: *(Live since November 2023)*

- The traditional username/password Log in flow for BRICS has been replaced by NIH's Researcher Auth Service (RAS).
- This change requires all users to follow a set of steps to Log in/sign up for RAS and link their BRICS account to their RAS account.
- BRICS | RAS integration currently supports 2 identity providers:
 - NIH and DoD PIV/CAC card Authenticator App
 - Login.gov

RAS PHASE 1b: *(May 2024)*

- Include additional Identity Providers and CAC cards from other agencies as needed.
- Enhancement requests and defect fixes

UPCOMING RELEASES

Raven Minor Release: *(February 2024)*

- Military Traumatic Brain Injury Initiative MTBI² Merge: Harmonize the code changes from MTBI² and Clinical Informatics System for Trials and Research (CiSTAR) team
- Add the capability to import Form Structures using the JSON format
- Optimize the Data Dictionary searches and filters
- Security Updates

Spiderman Release: *(June 2024)*

- Real time saving of locked ProFoRMS data to the repository
- Submission Tool | Globus Integration
- User Interface Enhancements for the Accounts and Query Tool modules
- Centralized GUID Enhancements
- Various UI and feature enhancements across the BRICS modules

PDBP Spotlight



The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Parkinson's Disease Biomarkers Program (PDBP) was developed to accelerate the discovery of promising new diagnostic and progression biomarkers for Parkinson's Disease.

Who we are

The Parkinson's Disease Biomarkers Program (PDBP) is made up of researchers, patients, family members, and healthcare professionals who are dedicated to accelerating the pace of biomarkers research.

What is a biomarker?

A biomarker, or biological marker, is a measurable attribute in a living person that indicates a disease, disease subtype, exposure, or risk. Examples of biomarkers for other diseases include cholesterol levels for heart disease and blood pressure for heart disease or stroke risk. No biomarkers currently exist for PD or related diseases.

The PDBP serves as a multi-faceted platform for:

- Integration - Integrating existing biomarker efforts
- Standardization - Standardizing data collection and management across these efforts
- Acceleration - Accelerating the discovery of new biomarkers
- Collaboration - Fostering and expanding collaborative opportunities for all stakeholders

For more information on The Parkinson's Disease Biomarkers Program (PDBP), visit <https://pdbp.ninds.nih.gov>.



Are you interested in a specific topic or would like a demo to see how BRICS can work for you? Please request a Demo [here](#) and we would be happy to provide more information about BRICS.

For more information, contact the BRICS Team at:

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