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Informatics Computing System

# BRICS Seminar

**NIH Controlled-Access Data Repositories (CADRs)  
Corrective Actions and Planned Implementation**

**AI Integration with the Query Tool**

**Biomedical Research Informatics Computing System (BRICS)**

**May 15th, 2025**



<b>Audio/Video</b>	<b>Please keep your microphone muted</b>
<b>Recording</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today's session will be recorded</li> <li>• Will be posted on the BRICS website: <a href="https://brics.cit.nih.gov/demo">https://brics.cit.nih.gov/demo</a></li> </ul>
<b>Questions &amp; Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We encourage your participation today</li> <li>• Please use the chat for questions &amp; comments. The chat will be monitored throughout today's demo.</li> <li>• There will also be time <a href="#">after each speaker</a> and at the <a href="#">end</a> of the demo to ask live questions.</li> </ul>

# Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
9:05 AM-9:15 AM	NIH Controlled-Access Data Repositories (CADRs) Corrective Actions and Planned Implementation	Dr. Matthew McAuliffe
9:15 AM-9:55 AM	AI Integration with Query Tool	Omar Kapur
9:55 AM-10:00 AM	Closing Remarks	Dr. Matthew McAuliffe



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## Biomedical Research Informatics Computing System (BRICS)

# NIH Controlled-Access Data Repositories (CADRs) Corrective Actions and Planned Implementation

**Dr. Matthew McAuliffe**

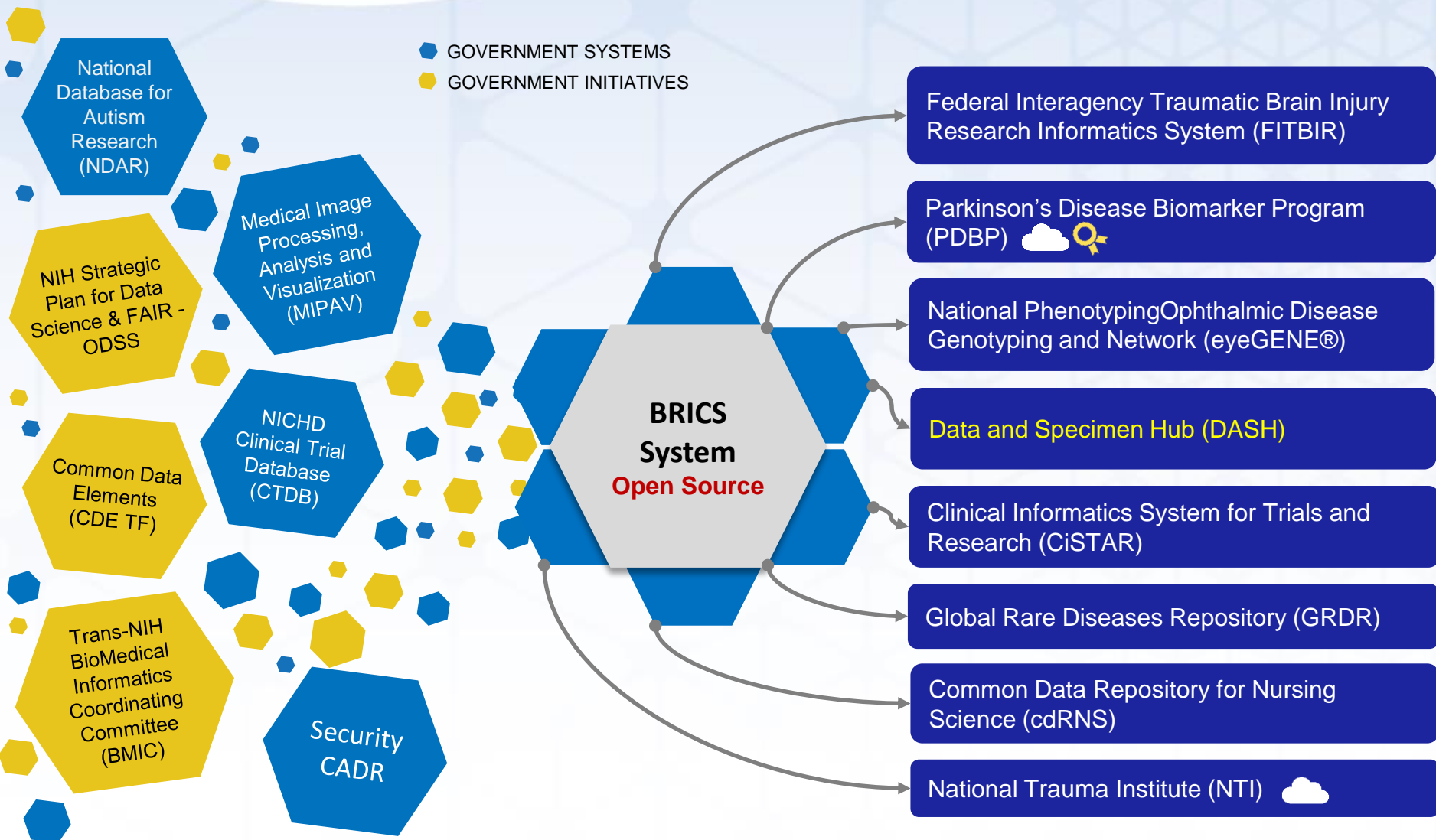




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# Building from existing projects



14<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellence.gov Awards Overall winner



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of Health

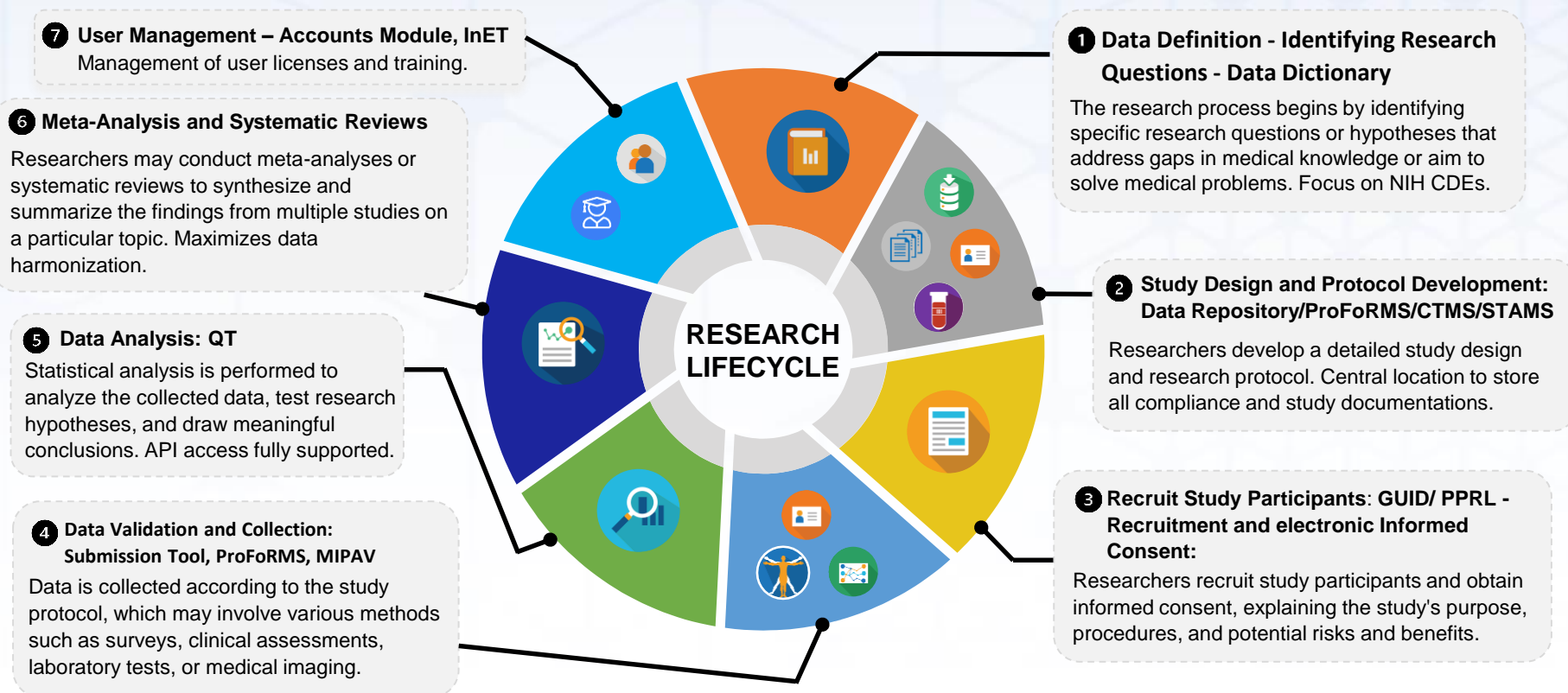


Center for  
Information  
Technology



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

The future of Intramural Clinical Research at NIH will be enabled through integrated, **end-to-end platforms** for clinical trial management which allow investigators to design, conduct, and manage studies easily and securely. Integrated tools support data sharing and management, as well as streamlined regulatory compliance and reporting. – Digital NIH





## BRICS Major Capabilities



Provides a fully functional Data Dictionary that supports **Common Data Elements (CDEs)** and automated curation using the CDEs as well as Unique DEs.

- a. **OMOP** x.0 version CDEs
- b. BTRIS support
- c. **UMLS** concept IDs
- d. **FHIR** profiles -> CDEs
- e. **CDISC**



Supports **FHIR** connectivity Prototype using HAPI server.



**Core Trust Seal** certified – (FITBIR, working on NEI BRICS)



Uses a hashcode ID system (**PPRL**), called the **GUID**, to support de-identified data collection across data types and studies.

**DOI** (Datacite) generation



Support **all data** types.  
Automated DAC and **Biospecimen** Review Access Committee (BRAC) support



Deployable on-prem as well as the Cloud (e.g. STRIDES).



Electronic data collection (eCRF – ProFoRMS) that is **21CFR part 11 compliant**. Provides access to PROMIS tools, PSR, offline collection ...



**AI** enabled translation/mapping tool source data to BRICS instance data consistent with CDEs. AI augmented repository search



Secure: **FISMA moderate – 800-53 rev 5 certified in Aug 2024**. Nightly scans. Penetration testing.



RAS enabled  
Globus enable

**BRICS systems supported:**

<https://brics.cit.nih.gov/partners>





## Background:

In alignment with recent NIH security directives, a few updates are being implemented to strengthen data protection across NIH **Controlled-Access Data Repositories (CADRs)**.

## CADRs Hosted on BRICS Platform:

- PDBP
- FITBIR
- NEI-eyeGENE
- DASH ( Sept 2025)
- CiStar
- ...

## Focus Areas as per the Corrective Action Workbook:

- System Updates
- Process/Policy Enhancements
- Documentation Improvements



## NIH CADR System Updates Round 1 Completed

- ❑ Reviewed all accounts and removed
  - User is affiliated with any of the **Countries of Concern**
  - Users with **Free email address**
  - Users mentioned under the **Prohibited User List**

## NIH CADR System Updates Round 2 Completed

- ❑ New Account Request will be Denied upon submission based on the following:
  - Users affiliated with any of the **Countries of Concern**
  - Users with **Free email address**
  - Users mentioned under the **Prohibited User List**
- **New Emails** added that get sent out to the Account Requestors and the Operations teams
  - Verbiage is the standard text provided by the NIH CADR team for **prohibited requestors and requestors with free email**
- Added **Prohibited Users Log** for Operations and Account Admins

- ❑ Present BRICS Identity Assurance Level :
  - BRICS supports the following Identity Providers:
    - PIV Card – Is at **IA Level 3**
    - Login.Gov – Is at **IA Level 1** with Compensatory Controls
    - eRA Commons – **Not** Integrated with BRICS Platform
  
- ❑ The CADR requirement IA Level 2 Plan
  - **PIV Card Users** – No Action Needed
  
  - **Login.gov Users**
    - Domestic users – **Program** to ask the user community using Login.gov to move to IA Level 2
    - International users - **Program** to ask the user community using Login.gov to move to IA Level 2
      - Create ID.me accounts and use that to log in to the BRICS instances
  
  - **BRICS software full IA Level 2 and ID.me support - August**

☐ **Data Access Committee (DAC) Charter**

- NIH has provided the standard DAC charter to be used by CADRs

☐ **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**

- Program team needs to create/update the SOPs with program specific details

☐ **Policies and Procedures**

- Program team needs to update their Data Access Request policies/procedures and documents adhering to the new guidelines



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# Questions?





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# Biomedical Research Informatics Computing System (BRICS)

## AI Integration with Query Tool

Omar Kapur



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
NEUROLOGICAL  
DISORDERS AND STROKE

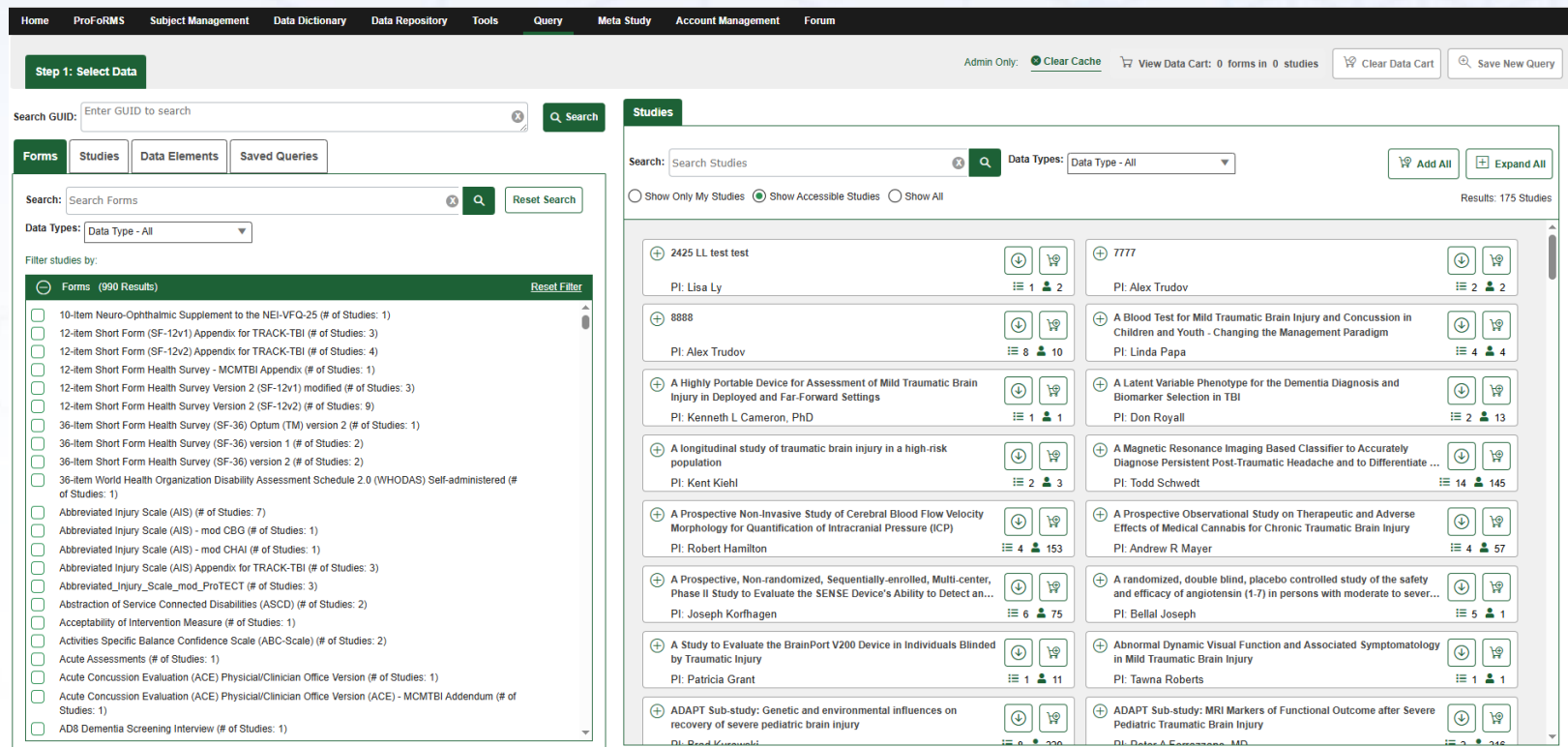


# Query Tool Overview

Provides users with the ability to pull data from instance repository and filter and download based on research question of interest

Data is organized by:

- Studies
- Form Structures
- Data Elements



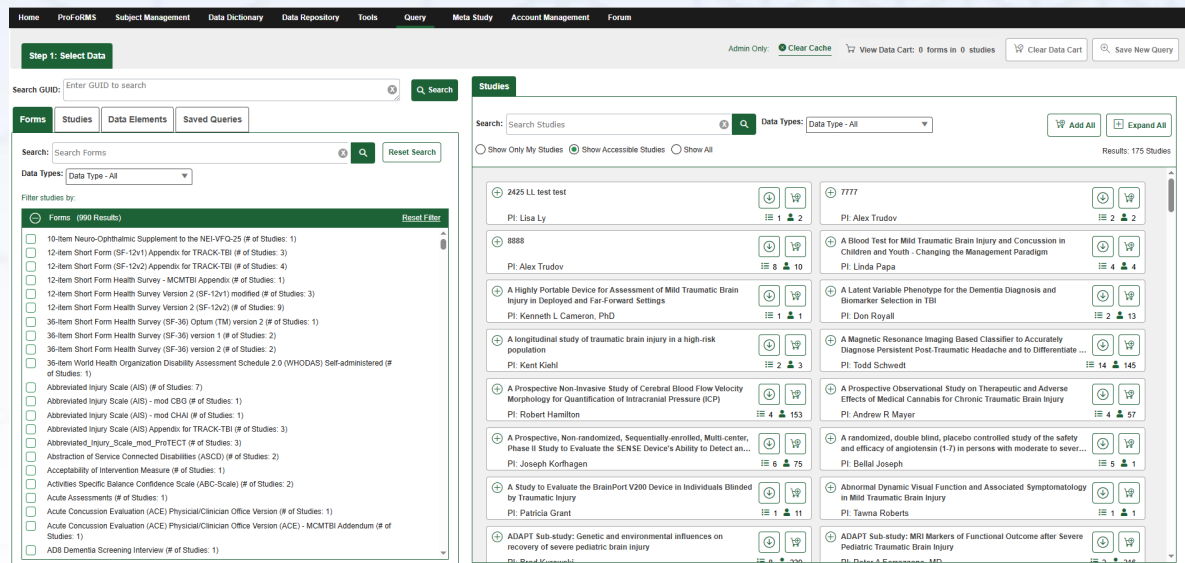
The screenshot displays the BRICS Query Tool interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for Home, ProFORMS, Subject Management, Data Dictionary, Data Repository, Tools, Query, Meta Study, Account Management, and Forum. Below this, a 'Step 1: Select Data' section contains a search bar for GUIDs and a 'Search' button. The main interface is divided into two panels. The left panel, titled 'Forms', shows a search bar and a list of 990 results, including various forms like '10-Item Neuro-Ophthalmic Supplement to the NEI-VFQ-25' and 'Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS)'. The right panel, titled 'Studies', shows a search bar and a list of 175 studies, including '2425 LL test', '8888', 'A Blood Test for Mild Traumatic Brain Injury', and 'A Magnetic Resonance Imaging Based Classifier'. Each study entry includes a title, a principal investigator (PI), and a list of associated forms.





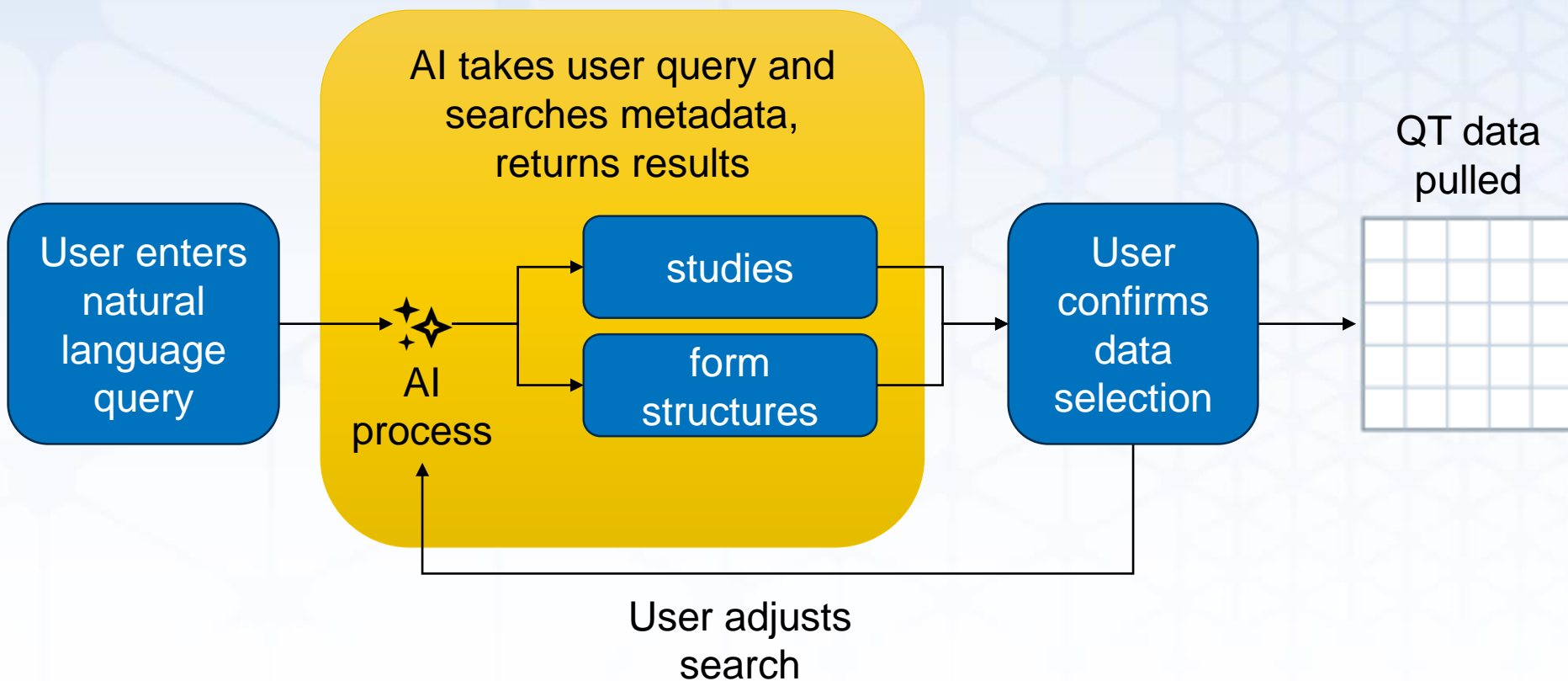
# Query Tool AI Integration

- For power users, the current Query Tool works well
- For non-power users and for data exploration, the process can be more difficult
- **Goal for this project:** Integrate AI into the Query Tool to improve data discovery and facilitate users finding and accessing data across studies





# Query Tool AI Integration



# Building the AI process

AI development and deployment is occurring across multiple environments

## **Sandbox Proof of Concept environment**

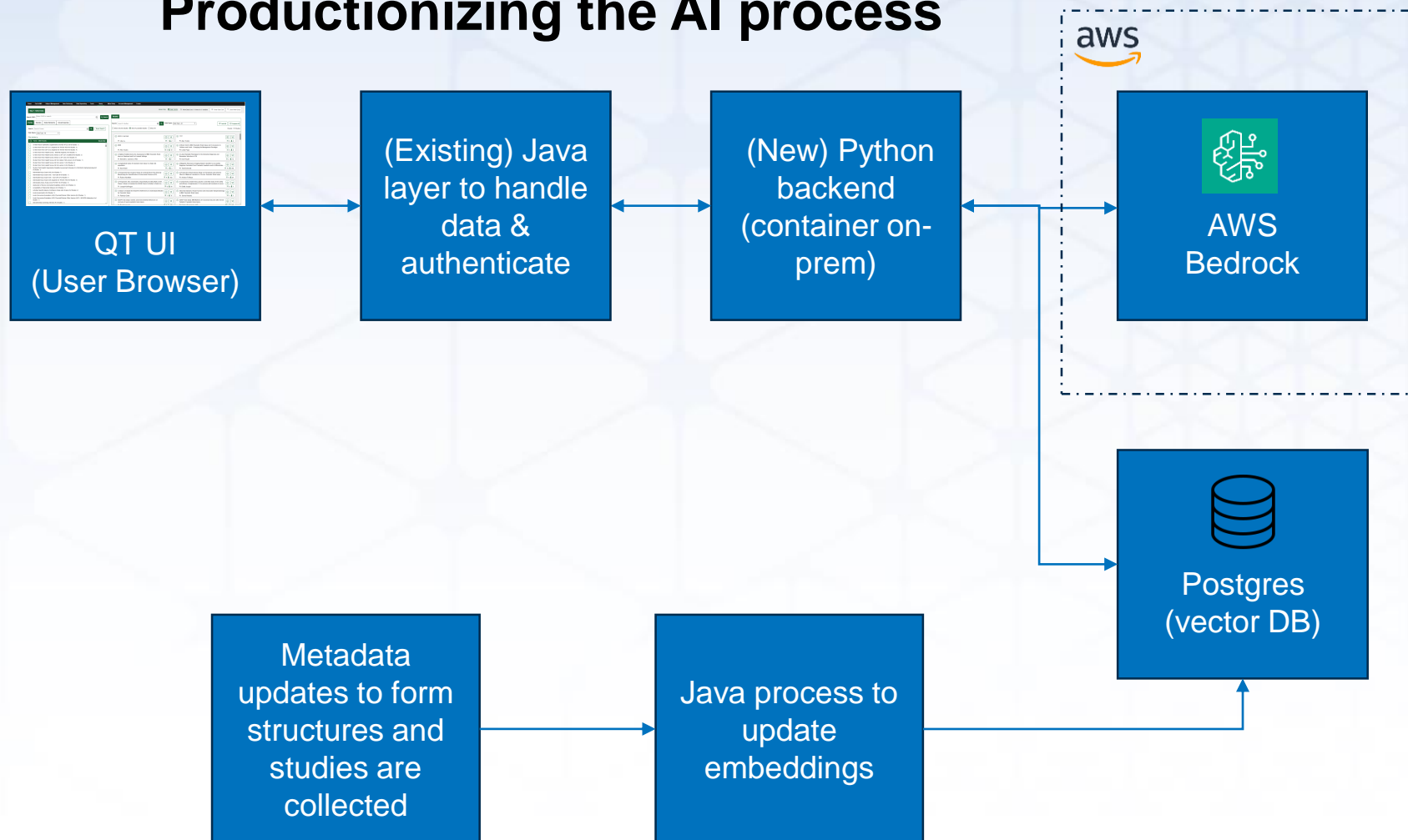
- Used for AI process development only
- POC using truncated public & mock metadata
- Using streamlit for prototyping
- Rapid development to assess feasibility and effectiveness

## **Development and production BRICS environments**

- Preparing first development environment within BRICS instance (FITBIR)
- Designing UI/UX changes



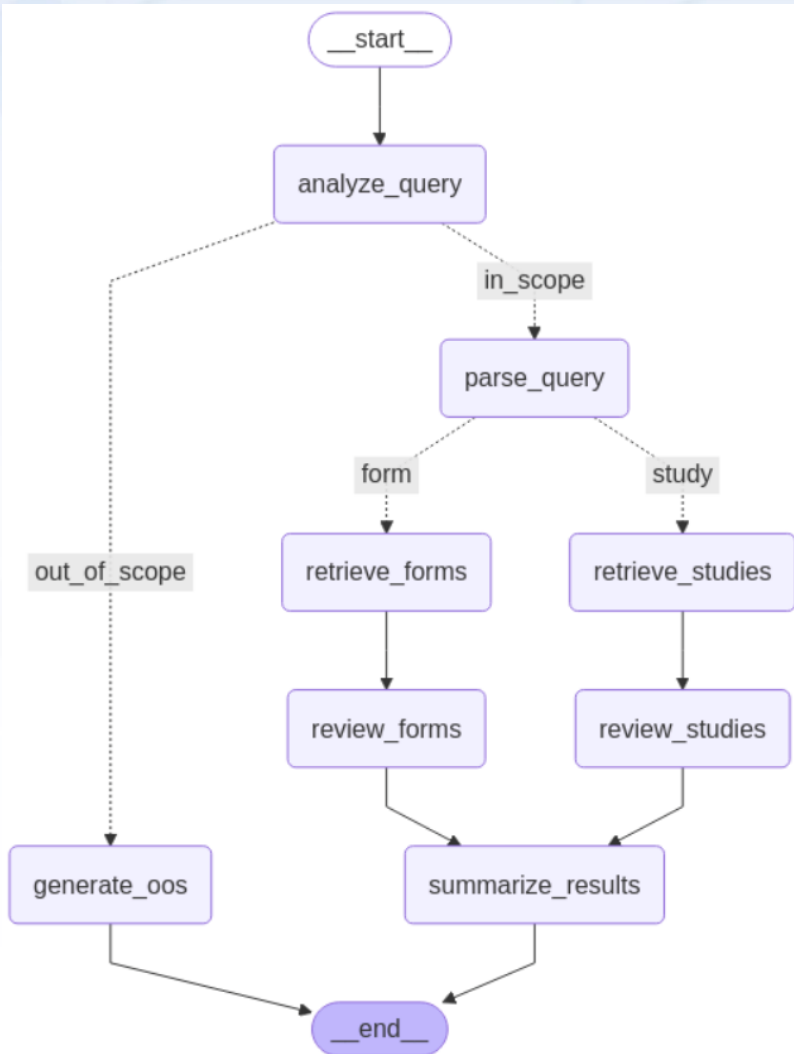
## Productionizing the AI process





# Query Tool AI MVP Baseline Flow

## Phase 1 MVP Flow:



### Phase 1:

Use AI to search and reflect, provide user with results & explanations

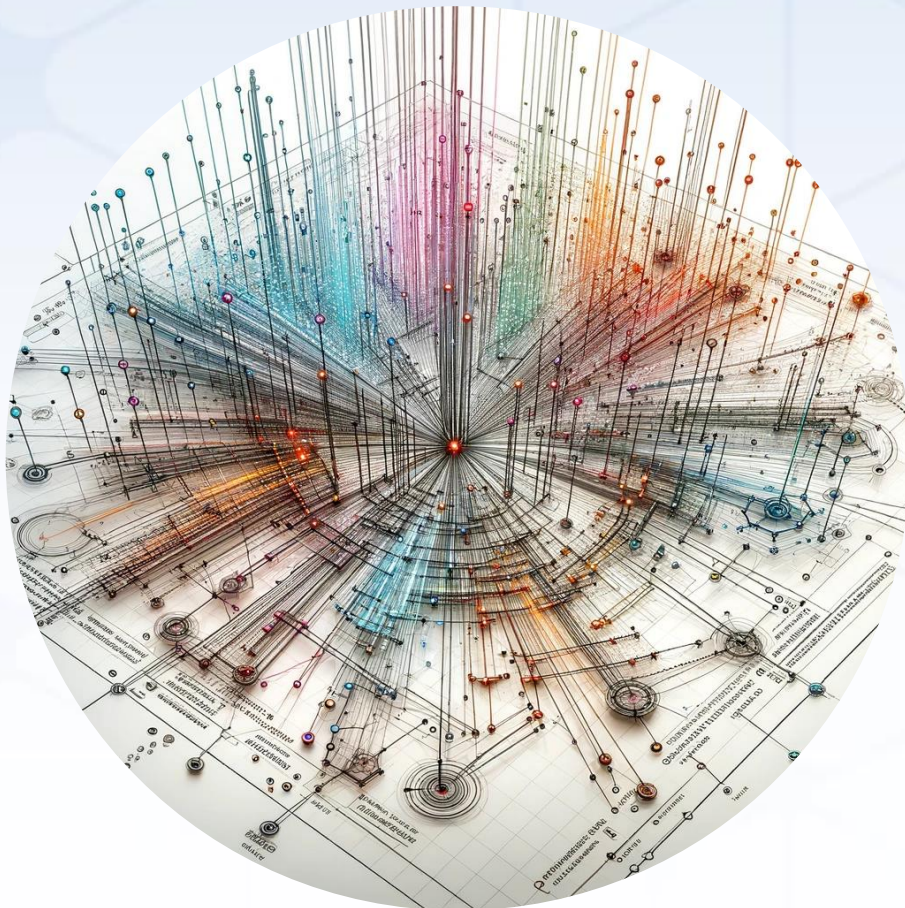
### Phase 2:

Additional upgrades to AI functionality (e.g., conversational search, joining forms, generating filters)





# Semantic Search using Embeddings



- Embeddings are transformations of words, phrases, or entire documents into **numerical vectors in a high-dimensional space**
- This allows us to compare two pieces of text (e.g., a search query and data structure description) on a semantic level
- For this project, we are using the **Amazon Titan v2 Embedding model**, which produces 1,024-dimensional vectors (default)
- For semantic search, all data must have embeddings generated; each user query compared against the database & closest results returned



## Demo

## Tech Stack

- **AI backend language:** Python
- **AI framework:** LangChain & LangGraph
- **Vector DB:** Postgresql & pgvector
- **Model inference:** AWS Bedrock
  - **LLM family:** Claude (testing others)
  - **Embedding model:** Titan v2

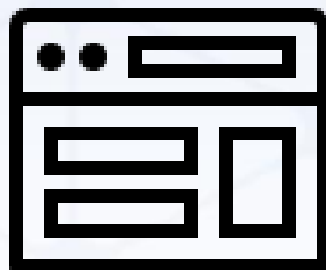






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## UX/UI Mockups



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



**Search with AI**

Select Data

Admin Only:  **Clear Cache**

**Search with AI using Natural Language**

**What are you looking for?**

Describe what you're looking for within form structures, studies, and data elements, and provide details around specific data you'd like to see. Please check the results for accuracy.

Describe what you are searching for

**Search with AI**

## Introducing Search with AI

Now you can use natural language to search for studies and forms to view, filter, and query.

- 1 Type what you're looking for into the text box, and click Search with AI
- 2 The AI will search for all relevant studies and forms, and highlight the best matches
- 3 Add as many results as you want and then refine them in Select Data

 Try it now

## Studies

## Forms

**Search:**

Data Types: Data Type - All ▼

 **Add All**

**Expand All**

☐ Show Only My Studies ☒ Show Accessible Studies ☐ Show All

Results: 0 Studies



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[Data Dictionary](#)

[Data Repository](#)

[Query](#)

[Meta Study](#)

[Account Management](#)

[Forum](#)

[Search with AI](#)

[Select Data](#)

Admin Only: [Clear Cache](#)

### Search with AI using Natural Language

#### What are you looking for?

Describe what you're looking for within form structures, studies, and data elements, and provide details around specific data you'd like to see. Please check the results for accuracy.

A study with at least 100 participants that uses a GOS-E form structure

[Search with AI](#)

Introducing Search with AI

[Studies](#)

[Forms](#)

Search:



Data Types:

[Add All](#)

[Expand All](#)

☐ Show Only My Studies

☒ Show Accessible Studies

☐ Show All

Results: 0 Studies

Natural  
language  
query  
entered



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A study with at least 100 participants that uses a GOS-E form structure

[Search with AI](#)

Thinking...

Introducing Search with AI [^](#)

[Studies](#)

[Forms](#)

Search:



Data Types:

[Add All](#)

[Expand All](#)

☐ Show Only My Studies

☒ Show Accessible Studies

☐ Show All

Results: 0 Studies

The screenshot displays the FITBIR Informatics System interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, ProFoRMS, Subject Management, Data Dictionary, Data Repository, Query, Meta Study, Account Management, and Forum. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar with the text 'Search with AI' and 'Select Data'. To the right of the search bar, there is a link 'Admin Only: Clear Cache'.

The main content area is titled 'Search with AI using Natural Language'. It contains a section 'What are you looking for?' with a text input field containing the query 'A study with at least 100 participants that uses a GOS-E form structure'. Below this, there is a section 'Here's what I found:' with a list of results: '11 Studies (2 top matches)' and '6 Forms (1 top match)'. A link 'Learn more about these results' is provided. Below this, there is a section 'Select the relevant forms and studies and click Select Data.' with a 'Search with AI' button and a 'Clear Search' button.

The search results are displayed in a table. The table has columns for 'Studies' and 'Forms'. The 'Studies' column lists the following studies:

- AIM: TBI Impact of Aging on the Immune Response to Traumatic Brain Injury** (Pi: Hilaire J Thompson) - 20 matches, 272 people
- Adding Legacy Clinical Data to the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury: Citicoline Brain Injury Treatment Trial** (Pi: Ross Zafonte, DO) - 56 matches, 1213 people
- Biomarker-Based Precision Medicine Approach to Traumatic Brain Injury Subphenotypes** (Pi: Richard Rubenstein) - 46 matches, 346 people
- CENC Study 1: Observational Study on Late Neurologic Effects of OEF OIF OND Combat** (Pi: William Walker, MD) - 94 matches, 1615 people
- Evaluation of Longitudinal outcomes in mild TBI Active-Duty Military and Veterans** (Pi: Christine M MacDonald, PhD) - 46 matches, 346 people
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Brain Injury Treatment (HOBIT) Trial** (Pi: Gaylan L Rockswold, MD) - 94 matches, 1615 people
- LIMBIC-CENC Prospective Longitudinal Study** (Pi: William Walker) - 23 matches, 257 people
- Managing Severe TBI without ICP Monitoring-Guidelines Development and Testing (CBG Study)** (Pi: Randall Chestnut, MD, FCCM) - 12 matches, 111 people
- Progesterone for the Treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury (ProTECT III)** (Pi: David Wright) - 94 matches, 2628 people
- Transforming Research and Clinical Knowledge in Traumatic Brain Injury (TRACK-TBI) - Adult** (Pi: Geoffrey Manley, MD, PhD) - 14 matches, 927 people
- AIM: TBI Impact of Aging on the Immune Response to Traumatic Brain Injury** (Pi: Hilaire J Thompson) - 30 matches, 882 people

A blue arrow points from the 'Search with AI' button to the 'Why is this a match?' link for the first study match.

AI shows results, sorted into Studies & Forms, and provides summary of results

User has opportunity to provide feedback

Top matches highlighted, with one click ability to select

Other results listed below



## Expandable accordion to view full summary

### Search with AI using Natural Language

#### What are you looking for?

*Describe what you're looking for within form structures, studies, and data elements, and provide details around specific data you'd like to see. Please check the results for accuracy.*

A study with at least 100 participants that uses a GOS-E form structure

#### Here's what I found:

- [11 Studies \(2 top matches\)](#)
- [6 Forms \(1 top match\)](#)

> Learn more about these results

Select the relevant forms and studies and click Select Data.

Did we find what you were looking for? Yes No

Search with AI

Clear Search

### Search with AI using Natural Language

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#### Here's what I found:

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- [6 Forms \(1 top match\)](#)

> Learn more about these results

Based on your query for data on anxiety in elderly subjects, here is a comprehensive response:

#### Primary Form Structure:

- Form: Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7)
- Form ID: 296
- Justification: This form is specifically designed to screen and measure anxiety symptoms, making it ideal for analyzing anxiety in elderly populations.

#### Primary Data Element:

- Data Element: 'GAD7WryTooMchScale'
- Reason: Directly measures anxiety symptoms using the GAD-7 scale, with a specific focus on worrying - a key indicator of anxiety particularly relevant to elderly subjects.

#### Filter Criteria:

- Data Element: 'AgeYrs'
- Filter Expression: Subjects aged 65 years and older
- Justification: Allows precise selection of elderly participants by capturing age in full years

**Relevant Studies:** The following studies were identified as potentially containing relevant anxiety data:

1. FITBIR-STUDY0000259
2. FITBIR-STUDY0000242
3. FITBIR-STUDY0000243
4. FITBIR-STUDY0000244
5. FITBIR-STUDY0000245
6. FITBIR-STUDY0000247
7. FITBIR-STUDY0000250







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Search with AI

Select Data

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[Learn more about these results](#)

Select the relevant forms and studies and click Select Data.

Did we find what you were looking for? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Search with AI

Clear Search

Introducing Search with AI

Studies

Forms

Search: Search Studies

Data Types: Data Type - All

[Add All](#)

[Expand All](#)

☐ Show Only My Studies ☒ Show Accessible Studies ☐ Show All

Results: 0 Studies

#### Top Matches:

[Select All Top Matches](#)

☒ ☐

**AIM: TBI Impact of Aging on the Immune Response to Traumatic Brain Injury**  
PI: Hilaire J Thompson  
20 272  
[Why is this a top match?](#)

☒ ☐

**Adding Legacy Clinical Data to the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury: Citoline Brain Injury Treatment Trial**  
PI: Ross Zafonte, DO  
56 1213  
[Why is this a top match?](#)

#### Other Results:

☐ ☐

**Biomarker-Based Precision Medicine Approach to Traumatic Brain Injury Subphenotypes**  
PI: Richard Rubenstein  
46 346  
[Why is this a match?](#)

☐ ☐

**CENC Study 1: Observational Study on Late Neurologic Effects of OEF OIF OND Combat**  
PI: William Walker, MD  
94 1615  
[Why is this a match?](#)

☐ ☐

**Evaluation of Longitudinal outcomes in mild TBI Active-Duty Military and Veterans**  
PI: Christine M MacDonald, PhD  
46 346  
[Why is this a match?](#)

☐ ☐

**Hyperbaric Oxygen Brain Injury Treatment (HOBIT) Trial**  
PI: Gaylan L Rockswold, MD  
94 1615  
[Why is this a match?](#)

☐ ☐

**LIMBIC-CENC Prospective Longitudinal Study**  
PI: William Walker  
23 257  
[Why is this a match?](#)

☐ ☐

**Managing Severe TBI without ICP Monitoring-Guidelines Development and Testing (CBG Study)**  
PI: Randall Chestnut, MD, FCCM  
12 111  
[Why is this a match?](#)

☐ ☐

**Progesterone for the Treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury (ProTECT III)**  
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94 2628  
[Why is this a match?](#)

☐ ☐


**Transforming Research and Clinical Knowledge in Traumatic Brain Injury (TRACK-TBI) - Adult**  
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[Why is this a match?](#)

☐ ☐

**AIM: TBI Impact of Aging on the Immune Response to Traumatic Brain Injury**  
PI: Hilaire J Thompson  
39 882  
[Why is this a match?](#)

User selects relevant results via checkboxes

## Same process for Forms


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Data Dictionary
Data Repository
Query
Meta Study
Account Management
Forum

Admin Only: [Clear Cache](#)

### Search with AI using Natural Language

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A study with at least 100 participants that uses a GOS-E form structure

**Here's what I found:**

- 11 Studies (2 top matches)
- 6 Forms (1 top match)

[Learn more about these results](#)

Select the relevant forms and studies and click Select Data.

Did we find what you were looking for? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Studies
Forms

Search:

Data Types:

☐ Show Only My Forms
 ☒ Show Accessible Forms
 ☐ Show All

Results: 0 Studies

**Top Matches:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="plus"/> FITBIR Demographics Form <input type="info"/> Why is this a top match?	<input type="list"/> 20 <input type="person"/> 272	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="plus"/> FITBIR Demographics Form <input type="info"/> Why is this a top match?	<input type="list"/> 56 <input type="person"/> 1213
--	--	--	---

**Other Results:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="plus"/> FITBIR Demographics Form <input type="info"/> Why is this a match?	<input type="list"/> 20 <input type="person"/> 272	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="plus"/> FITBIR Demographics Form <input type="info"/> Why is this a match?	<input type="list"/> 20 <input type="person"/> 272
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Studies
Forms

Search:

☐ Show Only My Forms
 ☒ Show Accessible Forms

**Top Matches:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="plus"/> FITBIR Demographics Form <input type="info"/> Why is this a top match?
--

**Other Results:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="plus"/> FITBIR Demographics Form <input type="info"/> Why is this a match?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="plus"/> FITBIR Demographics Form <input type="info"/> Why is this a match?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="plus"/> FITBIR Demographics Form <input type="info"/> Why is this a match?

**Introducing Search with AI**



Once a result has been selected, user can proceed to 'Select Data'

The screenshot displays the FITBIR (Biomedical Research Informatics Computing System) web application. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, ProFORMS, Subject Management, Data Dictionary, Data Repository, Query, Meta Study, Account Management, and Forum. The user is logged in as an Administrator. The main interface is divided into two primary sections: 'Forms' and 'Studies'.

**Forms Section:** This section is used for filtering data based on specific forms. It includes a search bar, a 'Data Types' dropdown, and a 'Filter studies by' section. A list of 20 forms is displayed, each with a checkbox and the number of studies it is associated with. The 'Glasgow Outcome Scale Extended (GOS-E)' form is selected, and a blue bracket on the left indicates that forms corresponding to selected studies are pre-populated in this filter.

**Studies Section:** This section displays a list of studies. It includes a search bar, a 'Data Types' dropdown, and a 'Show Only My Studies' / 'Show Accessible Studies' / 'Show All' filter. Two studies are listed: 'AIM: TBI Impact of Aging on the Immune Response to Traumatic Brain Injury' and 'Adding Legacy Clinical Data to the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury: Citicoline Brain Injury Treatment Trial'. A blue bracket on the right indicates that selected studies from the 'Search with AI' step are pre-populated in this list.

Forms that correspond to selected studies are pre-populated in Forms filter

Selected studies from 'Search with AI' step are pre-populated



Once a result has been selected, user can proceed to 'Select Data' (Forms view)

The screenshot displays the FITBIR web application interface. At the top, the header includes the FITBIR logo, navigation tabs (Home, ProFoRMS, Subject Management, Data Dictionary, Data Repository, Query, Meta Study, Account Management, Forum), and a user welcome message. Below the header, there's a search bar with 'Search with AI' and 'Select Data' buttons. The 'Select Data' button is highlighted. The main content area is divided into two panels. The left panel, titled 'Studies', shows a search bar, a 'Data Types' dropdown, and a list of studies under the heading 'Studies (45 Results)'. A blue bracket on the left side of the image points to the list of studies, indicating that studies corresponding to selected forms are pre-populated in this filter. The right panel, titled 'Forms', shows a search bar, a 'Data Types' dropdown, and a list of forms under the heading 'Forms'. A blue bracket on the right side of the image points to the list of forms, indicating that selected forms from the 'Search with AI' step are pre-populated. The forms listed are 'FITBIR Demographics Form'.

Studies that correspond to selected forms are pre-populated in Studies filter


Selected forms from 'Search with AI' step are pre-populated



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Once a form or study is added to the Data Cart, the View & Filter Data step is accessible

 **FITBIR**  
Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research  
INFORMATICS SYSTEM

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Home ProFoRMS Subject Management Data Dictionary Data Repository **Query** Meta Study Account Management Forum

Search with AI **Select Data** **View & Filter Data** Admin Only: [Clear Cache](#) [View Data Cart](#) [Clear Data Cart](#) [Save New Query](#)

Search GUID:  Enter GUID to search [Search](#)

**Forms** Studies Data Elements Saved Queries

Search:  Search Forms [Reset Search](#)

Data Types:  Data Type - All

Filter studies by:  1 Form Selected [Reset Filter](#)

Forms (20 Results)

- ☐ Brief Symptoms Inventory-18 (# of Studies: 1)
- ☐ Comorbidities - AIM (# of Studies: 1)
- ☐ Outcomes, Infections, & Complications - AIM (# of Studies: 1)
- ☐ FITBIR Demographics Form (# of Studies: 1)
- ☐ Functional Independence Measure (FIM) Scale (# of Studies: 1)

**Studies**

Search:  Search Studies [Search](#) Data Types:  Data Type - All [Add All](#) [Expand All](#)

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# Questions?





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# Thank you for joining in!

Will see you all on June 12th, 2025!

