Identifying Library Services for the Future: A Focus Group of Translational Researchers' Data Curation and Management Practices

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Objectives

Translating research into practice ensures new treatments and research knowledge actually reach the patient or populations. Improving research data curation and management practices among physicians and scientists involved in academic translational research has been identified as a significant need.[1] The purposes of this qualitative study were to:
1) Understand comparative educational needs regarding data curation and data management among translational researchers
2) Identify potential roles the library could play to support individuals involved in these activities

Understanding **bench** to **bedside** data practices

Methods

Eight MD and PhD translational researchers, representing seven basic science and clinical departments from the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, participated in focus groups facilitated by a medical librarian moderator using a semi-structured interview guide. Discussions were videotaped and transcribed verbatim, then analyzed by three librarians and two library school students for common themes and differences among the represented specialties.

From left to right: James Lin, MD; Ivo Dinov, PhD; Jean de Vellis, PhD; and Leia Nghiemphu, MD.

From left to right: David Hovda, PhD; Dylan Roby, PhD (excluded due to School of Public Health affiliation); Kathleen Sakamoto, David Alexander and Christina Jamieson.

UCLA Participants

Jean de Vellis, PhD Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
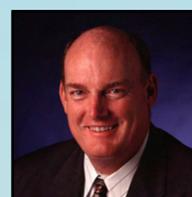
Ivo Dinov, PhD Neurology

James Lin, MD Pediatrics

Leia Nghiemphu, MD Neurology

David Alexander, MD Neurology

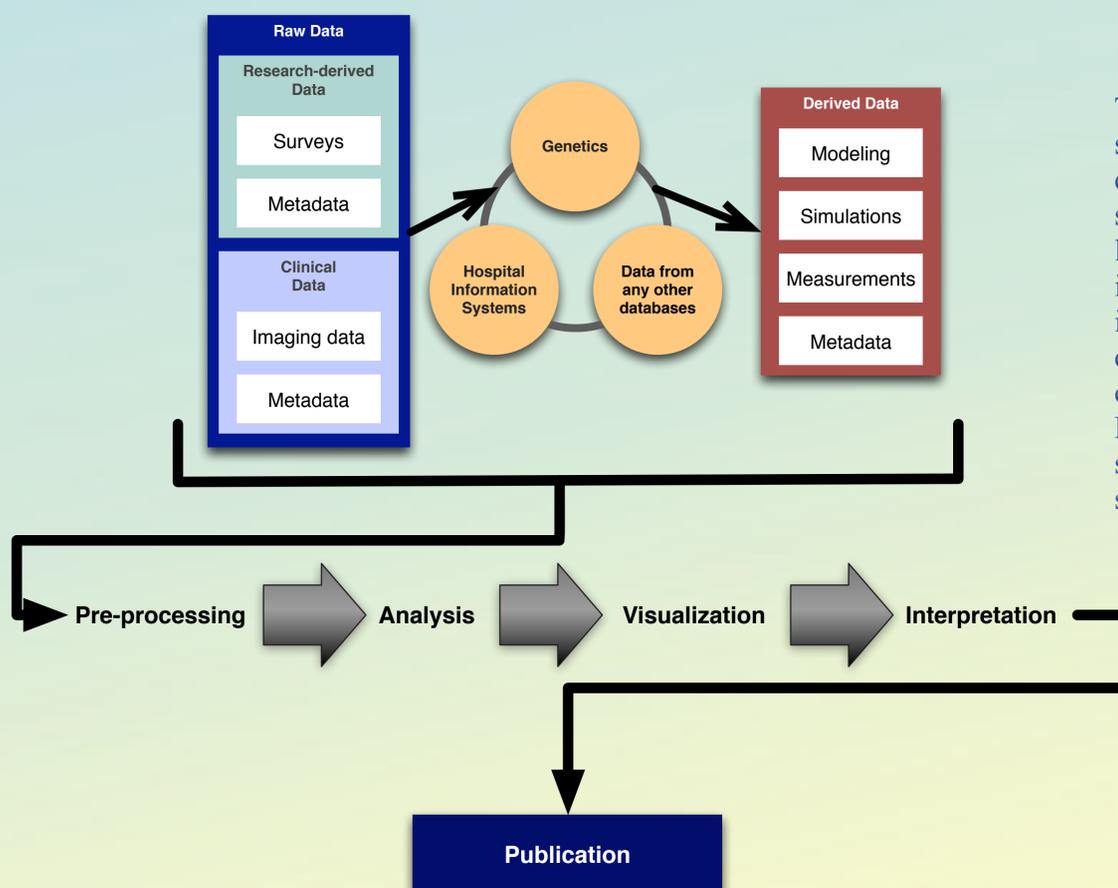**Kathleen Sakamoto MD, PhD Pediatrics**

David Hovda, PhD Neurosurgery
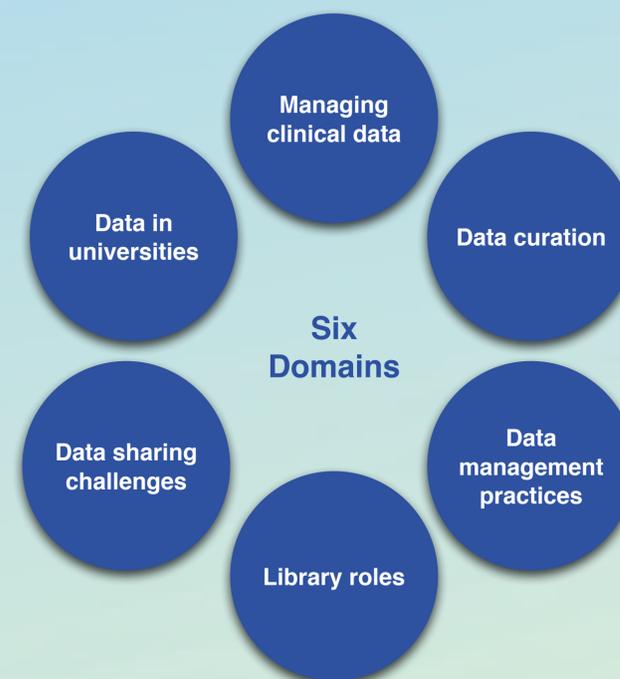
Christina Jamieson, PhD Urology

Findings

Sample Neurology Data Workflow

Results and Conclusions

Significant educational needs exist regarding data curation and data management among translational researchers. Data curation needs and current practices were explored across the following data curation domains:

Six Domains
- Managing clinical data
- Data curation
- Data management practices
- Library roles
- Data sharing challenges
- Data in universities

The study authors found that translational researchers at UCLA struggle to improve data practices and face many data curation challenges including working with large data sets, with highly sensitive data requiring secure servers, and with complex data lacking standards. Initiating discussions with the different information technology groups existing within departments involved in translational research has the potential to collaboratively create library services in academic health science centers and universities that best address data curation needs. Further studies are needed to clearly identify and evaluate specialty-specific educational needs before libraries can develop strong partnership roles and services.

References

[1] Research Information Network
http://www.rin.ac.uk/resources/factsheets/managing-research-data-guide-biocuration

UCLA LIBRARY
Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library