

Client

The National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Overview

The National Institute on Aging (NIA), partnered with the Alzheimer's Association (ALZ), developed a common language and classification system – Common Alzheimer's Disease Research Ontology (CADRO) – in order to coordinate Alzheimer's disease (AD) research funding strategies and to leverage resources of public and private funding agencies around the world. To expand the global use of CADRO to other federal and non-federal organizations, NIA and ALZ created a website that allowed organizations supporting AD research to upload their portfolio information. This website was named the International Alzheimer's Disease Research Portfolio (IADRP).

Challenge

The NIA wanted to migrate the content of its existing International Alzheimer's Disease Research Portfolio site (IADRP) from an outdated Java-based platform to improve its usability, design, and functionality. Additionally, for IADRP to be successful in the global AD research community, the search capabilities of the site needed substantial improvement. NIA also needed data visualization capabilities and advice on how to manage change to the site content.

Solution

After analysis, LCG recommended that NIA employ Drupal 7 with vendor Acquia's Platform as a Service as the new platform for IADRP. The design and development of the site mirrored a site that LCG had successfully implemented at NIH - the Interagency Pain Research Portfolio database (IPRP). The LCG web development team provided:

- Content management, including taxonomy, metadata and tagging capabilities;
- A formula to create a unique identifier for non-NIH grants (necessary for search and advanced filtering);
- Import and export capabilities from Microsoft Excel for uploading and downloading data;
- High-level user tips for the Help feature of the site;
- A Quick Search feature on the IADRP Homepage;
- Robust advanced search and filtering capabilities for all facets of the CADRO classification system;
- Google Charts data visualization and reporting capabilities; and
- A guide for how to implement governance over site content and permissions, including a change management process.

Result

The International Alzheimer's Disease Research Portfolio is now a user-friendly website that is supported by Drupal, the world's largest open-source community, and secured in the FedRAMP- and FISMA-compliant Acquia PaaS/ Amazon Web Services cloud. It is available to Alzheimer's disease research funding organizations world-wide. Using Drupal and modules developed in the open source community also reduced research and development costs on the IC's behalf.

Business Value

LCG made a meaningful contribution to the advancement of Alzheimer's disease research by increasing usability, security, and search capabilities of the International Alzheimer's Disease Research Portfolio (IADRP) website.

