**VIVO: a national resource discovery tool for the biomedical community**

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VIVO Collaboration

**Abstract – 200-500 words**

Researchers within a particular field are familiar with the leading scholars within their discipline but often face barriers preventing successful interdisciplinary collaboration and communication. This can be especially true for researchers hoping to find collaborators in the ever-evolving realm of biomedical research. One particularly urgent area is that of translational research. Translational research supports the goal of decreasing the time from bench discovery to clinical implementation. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Roadmap for Medical Research highlights the “bench-to-bedside” approach as an integral part of the research process and emphasizes that “*a stronger research infrastructure could strengthen and accelerate this critical part of the clinical research enterprise*”. VIVO offers an elegant approach to addressing many of the traditional roadblocks to collaboration that often emerge in the translational research setting.

Beginning as a platform for one institution, VIVO is now an NIH-funded consortium to create a national network of scientists. in development by Cornell University, University of Florida, and Indiana University and implemented at Ponce School of Medicine, Scripps Research Institute, Washington University in St. Louis, and Weill Cornell Medical College. Each site has a local installation which will share data in flexible and openly accessible ways to a national interface, and beyond.

Libraries are responsible for providing information resources to their communities. This responsibility has changed tremendously over the last few years, moving from providing access to books and journals toward incorporating in-depth research consultations from bioinformatics specialists and embedded clinical librarians into daily workflows. Most recently, libraries have engaged their users with innovative approaches to support translational research efforts on site; however, facilitating collaboration beyond institutional boundaries remains a challenge. VIVO offers librarians a way to transcend traditional liaison-style activities and join the rich cross-section of interdisciplinary interactions between clinicians and bench researchers in support of translational research objectives. Indeed, libraries and librarians play an integral role in the VIVO project. Librarians are charged with outreach and support of VIVO locally, including user support and training, and they also play a role in the development of local and project-wide ontological frameworks. Librarians are the perfect conduit between the VIVO platform and the biomedical research community, while VIVO allows librarians to utilize their unique skill set and knowledgebase in support of their entire research community, from bench to bedside.

This paper will highlight the structure and goals of the NIH funded project, the implementation process for partner institutions, the vital role libraries are playing in support and dissemination of the tool on their campuses and how institutions can become a member of the VIVO community.