

# Annual California BD2K Centers Regional Meetings: Building Connections Across Centers

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Recognizing the geographic concentration of BD2K Centers in California, the BDDS and ENIGMA centers have hosted two annual “California Big Data Annual Meetings” for a highly interactive opportunity for BD2K centers to present software, big data discoveries, and big data resources and to discuss how to leverage our California-based BD2K efforts into further consortia activities for large-scale biomedical science and training. These meetings have included participants from both California (including centers affiliated with Stanford, UCLA, USC, UC San Diego, California State, Cal-Brain, and UCSC), as well as Washington, Illinois, and NIH program staff. The meetings have provided opportunities for each center to share their research, as well as to advance collaboration between California centers on tools, training and papers.

Participants in the 2015 meeting established working groups on “Reviewing Scientific Tools and Workflow Technologies”, “Computing, Data, & Storage Infrastructures”, “Establishing Educational and Training Experiences”, and “Mathematics of Big Data Algorithms”. The resulting intra-center conversations identified common challenges, technical approaches, and barriers to effective scientific progress using data at scale, along with possible avenues to collaboratively address these shared challenges. Specifically, collaborative groups were charged to advance 4 specific issues: “Registry and Catalogue”, “Shareable Resources”, “Sustainability”, and “Quality Control”.

In 2016, the meeting included opportunity for sharing of each Center’s scientific results and demonstration of newly implemented technologies to facilitate bioscience research using big data, and discussion on how CA BD2K Centers can further work together on integration and use of tools. Prompted to consider what actions can we take together, participants identified 11 specific opportunities for intra-center data sharing and collaborative research opportunities. Already, preliminary efforts are under way to realize these opportunities, and the California BD2K centers are looking forward to another opportunity to meet together in 2017.