The BD2K Training Coordinating Center: A Resource for the Data Science Community

John Van Horn, University of Southern California Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute; Jeana Kamdar; Crystal Stewart; Sumiko Abe; Avnish Bhattrai; Xiaoxiao Lei; Krithika Ramaswamy; Shobhit Agarwal; Carmen Tan; Caroline O'Driscoll; Lily Fierro; Jose-Luis Ambite; Kristina Lerman; Jonathan Gordon; Gully Burns; Rochelle Tractenberg; Florian Geigl; Priya Jain; John Berardo; Michael Taylor

The BD2K Training Coordinating Center (TCC) helps to promote and support training and educational activities across the collection of NIH funded Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) programs.[1] In particular, the TCC brings an innovative approach to the exploration and discovery of biomedical Big Data educational and training content. The TCC and its Big Data U website (bigdatau.org) aim to equip biomedical researchers with the tools and techniques to navigate and interpret Big Data accurately, efficiently, and effectively by providing a centralized and personalized online educational platform. The Educational Resource Discovery Index (ERuDIte) and 'Knowledge Map' serve as the engine of the Big Data U web platform, hosting an array of diverse domains, ranging from molecular biology to probability statistics. Big Data U functions as a comprehensive training resource that allows users to easily identify and engage with educational resources aligned with their experience and personal learning needs. Being a multifaceted center, the TCC also runs other various events and projects including the data science rotation RoAD-Trip program, an annual Data Science Innovation Lab series, the online Data Science Seminar Series (with the BD2K CCC and the NIH), is creating original films on the science behind 'big data' science, as well as contributes to numerous community outreach activities. All in all, through our BD2K TCC activities, these diverse projects are helping to support the rich network of data scientists and researchers and their desire to prepare, learn, analyze, and interpret large-scale biomedical data.

1. Van Horn, J. D. Opinion: Big data biomedicine offers big higher education opportunities. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 113, 6322-6324, doi:10.1073/pnas.1607582113 (2016).