



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

YEAR:
2012

STATUS:
Laureate

Organization:
HCA Information Technology & Services

Organization URL:
www.hcahealthcare.com

Project Name:
MySCRI Clinical Trials Portal

What social/humanitarian issue was the project designed to address? What specific metrics did you use to measure the project's success?

Enrollment in clinical trials is very low, and yet crucial for determining the safety and effectiveness of various treatments and medications. The Sarah Cannon Research Institute (SCRI), which was formed by HCA and is supported by HCA Information Technology & Services, specializes in cancer treatment, and clinical trials are an integral part of our mission for advancing therapies for patients. The MySCRI system allows oncologists all across the country to access Sarah Cannon's clinical trial protocols, resulting in more expansive and deeper research in healthcare's most urgent field. Historically, the greater part of cancer research through clinical trials was done in academic environments and was restricted to the walls of academic medical centers. MySCRI reaches around the world, as it has been enthusiastically embraced by community physicians, clinicians, and nurses, leading to some of healthcare's most innovative research. MySCRI better facilitates research and innovation in this important field, allowing contemporary cancer care in an unprecedented fashion.

Please describe the technologies used and how those technologies were deployed in an innovative way. Also, please include any technical or other challenges that were overcome for the successful implementation of the project.

Sarah Cannon leveraged Microsoft SharePoint and rebranded it as MySCRI, the single destination for all of your clinical trial needs. SharePoint features allow us to powerfully drive

clinical trial operations through its advanced document and content management as well as workflow capabilities. Currently, there is about 60 GB of content stored in the clinical trial portal. We also were able to leverage the forms-based authentication and associated security workflow to ensure the access was simplified and users could manage their own passwords and resets. This naturally leads to more and richer access and adoption from clinicians and physicians, which leads to more effective access to clinical trial information, and ultimately leads to improved cancer treatments.

Please list the specific humanitarian benefits the project has yielded so far.

We wish we could say we've helped discover the cure for cancer. We haven't. Yet. But the MySCRI system facilitates and simplifies the complex process of putting patients on clinical trials, which helps save the time of physicians, eases the challenges for patients, and makes possible a wealth of new research and discoveries that ultimately improve cancer therapies. MySCRI boasts nearly 1,000 users throughout over 80 affiliated oncology practices, offering a 300+ menu of clinical trials, so patients and their physicians can pick and choose which ones to participate in. The kind of intelligent access to information that MySCRI provides is a key for their informed decision-making. The clinical trial industry is very confusing for a typical physician, based upon the huge volume of information and the overall lack of navigation. The MySCRI portal provides a streamlined and intelligently guided application that improves the probability of connecting the best clinical trial with a patient's condition in the most expeditious manner. While early in its adoption, improving this basic fundamental will accelerate and ensure more success with clinical trial studies, which will translate into better therapies and care for patients battling cancer and could subsequently lead to the cure of the greatest disease of our generation.

Please provide the best example of how the project has benefited a specific individual, enterprise or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work.

The best, most important benefit of MySCRI is the cumulative effect its scale and simplicity ultimately has to offer the treatment of cancer patients. MySCRI allows physicians and clinicians to be more engaged in clinical research. All of this results in better outcomes in the short and long term for the patients. Also, in the process of implementing MySCRI, we rolled out a call center called "Ask Sarah," which allows physicians to get answers about their patients' clinical trials needs immediately, and allows for much more attentive patient care at times when it matters most. This is what is so unique and so important about MySCRI. Amanda Bilbrey, who manages the research nurses for SCRI/Tennessee Oncology, confirms that the biggest benefit of MySCRI for patients is the "one stop shop" capability. Clinical trial enrollment requires many forms, and patients that are enrolling are often very sick and not capable of spending much time on these administrative tasks. "MySCRI's single source is a huge benefit for patients and patient care," says Bilbrey.