Streamlining Cancer Research: A Centralized Hub for Clinical Trials, Professional Development, and Staff Resources

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1. Background

The digital transformation of Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center (SKCCC) has introduced numerous benefits but has also led to the unintended fragmentation of critical research information across multiple online platforms. This dispersion presents significant challenges for our 150+ research staff, making it difficult to efficiently locate essential resources such as clinical trial information, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and guidance documents. As a result, staff experience decreased efficiency and productivity, inconsistent access to essential information, and obstacles in onboarding new team members.

2. Goals

This project establishes a unified platform to consolidate fragmented research information, creating a single source of truth for our research community. This centralized hub provides efficient access to vital resources, including CTO information, current SOPs, guidance documents, business resources, and professional development materials. The centralized platform aims to enhance research efficiency by reducing information retrieval time, ensuring consistent access for all CTO staff, streamlining onboarding, and fostering collaboration. Additionally, it minimizes errors associated with outdated information and supports continuous optimization. This platform empowers researchers, strengthens data management, and ultimately contributes to more effective cancer research.

3. Solutions and Methods

A collaborative approach using Microsoft SharePoint guided the development of our unified research information platform. A team of CTO volunteers conducted a needs assessment, including staff surveys and resource mapping. They designed an intuitive SharePoint information architecture with logical categorization, user-friendly navigation, and adaptable design. Content development included creating new materials and migrating existing resources into SharePoint. Ongoing refinement, driven by staff feedback and monthly updates, maintains platform relevance. This SharePoint solution, leveraging existing infrastructure, was implemented at no additional cost.

The project launched on February 12, 2025, following a phased implementation emphasizing continuous improvement to meet evolving CTO staff needs.

4. Outcomes

The centralized research platform launched successfully with strong initial engagement. Within the first five days, the site attracted 90 unique viewers, generating 775 visits, averaging about five minutes per session. Pilot feedback from 30 participants strongly affirmed the platform's value, highlighting its user-friendly design, comprehensive resource library, and streamlined information retrieval. To quantify these qualitative successes, a formal impact assessment is slated for April 2025. This assessment will employ targeted surveys to validate key outcomes. For example, resource completeness will be assessed via questions like, "Does the site provide all essential resources?" while usability will be gauged with scales measuring information accessibility. Open-ended inquiries will delve deeper into the platform's impact on daily workflows. Preliminary data suggests the platform is effectively resolving prior

information access hurdles. The forthcoming assessment will deliver a robust, data-backed evaluation of the platform's efficacy and inform future enhancements.

5. Learned and Future Directions
This project demonstrates the value of a centralized platform for research information, creating a single source of truth and fostering a connected research environment. While enterprise-wide repositories exist, a dedicated platform tailored to a specific research division offers significant advantages. Key lessons include comprehensive upfront planning (needs assessment and information architecture), visualizing the end goal, and prioritizing stakeholder input. Future directions include continuous improvement based on user feedback, expanding functionality and integrating with other systems, and promoting platform adoption.