Ohio at forefront of combining biomedical research with electronic patient data

by SCHUTTE on NOVEMBER 14, 2011

A recent National Research Council (NRC) report proposes a data network that integrates emerging molecular research with patient clinical data to more accurately classify diseases and ultimately enhance diagnosis and treatment.

“Currently, a disconnect exists between the wealth of scientific advances in research and the incorporation of this information into the clinic,” said Susan Desmond-Hellmann, co-chair of the committee that authored the report and chancellor of the University of California, San Francisco.

Exactly the type of network the NRC is asking for is being developed across the street from BioOhio, at the Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC). In January, OSC and The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital launched a production environment, services and support to speed discovery techniques of childhood diseases, from pediatric cancers to muscular dystrophy.

In 2009, OSC deployed a $4 million expansion to its flagship IBM Glenn system dedicated to Ohio’s bioscience research community. The center also recently added storage upgrades as part of its plan to develop a statewide computational infrastructure for genomics data.
analysis.

“OSC's comprehensive collection of resources enables researchers to store, organize and visualization this data-intensive information,” said Ashok Krishnamurthy, senior director of research at the Ohio Supercomputer Center.

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