NIEHS High Impacts Tracking System (HITS)

Drew, Christina H; Kennedy Helena L; Pettibone, Kristianna G | National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Abstract

- Evaluators of scientific research programs have several tools to document and analyze products of scientific research, but few tools exist for exploring and capturing the impacts of such research.
- Understanding impacts is beneficial because it fosters a greater sense of accountability and stewardship for federal research dollars.
- HITS is a new approach to documenting research impacts that is in development at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).
- HITS is designed to help identify scientific advances in the NIEHS research portfolio as they emerge, and provide a robust data structure to capture those advances.

Coding Process

- Program Officers identify impacts in sign-off notes for annual “Type 5” progress report reviews, using keywords.
- Analysts search the Program Notes from within HITS to identify and code the keywords using defined codes for different types of products and impacts.
- Analysts can also search for and code impacts identified by grantees in their Progress Reports from within HITS.
- This process flow minimizes the reporting and coding burden on program staff and grantees.

Outputs and Impacts Coded in HITS

- Animal models
- Awards
- Biological outputs (biomarkers, assays)
- Clinical impacts
- Collaborations
- Community partnerships
- Databases/software/ statistical models
- Expertise sought by others
- Economic findings
- Improved environmental remediation
- Measurement instruments
- Methodology
- Patent
- Policy/regulation
- Public health intervention
- Scientific findings

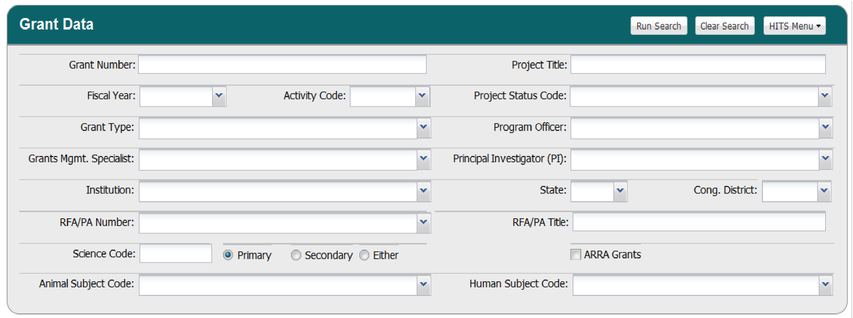
Tips for Program Officers

- Identify Key Findings in annual progress report reviews
- Email impacts of interest to the Program Analysis Branch as you identify them

Tips for Grantees

- Communicate key impacts in progress reports or directly to program officers via email
- Describe specific outputs and impacts

Ability to Search Specific Grant Data



Easy Access to Information for Program Staff

▼ Sub-Projects

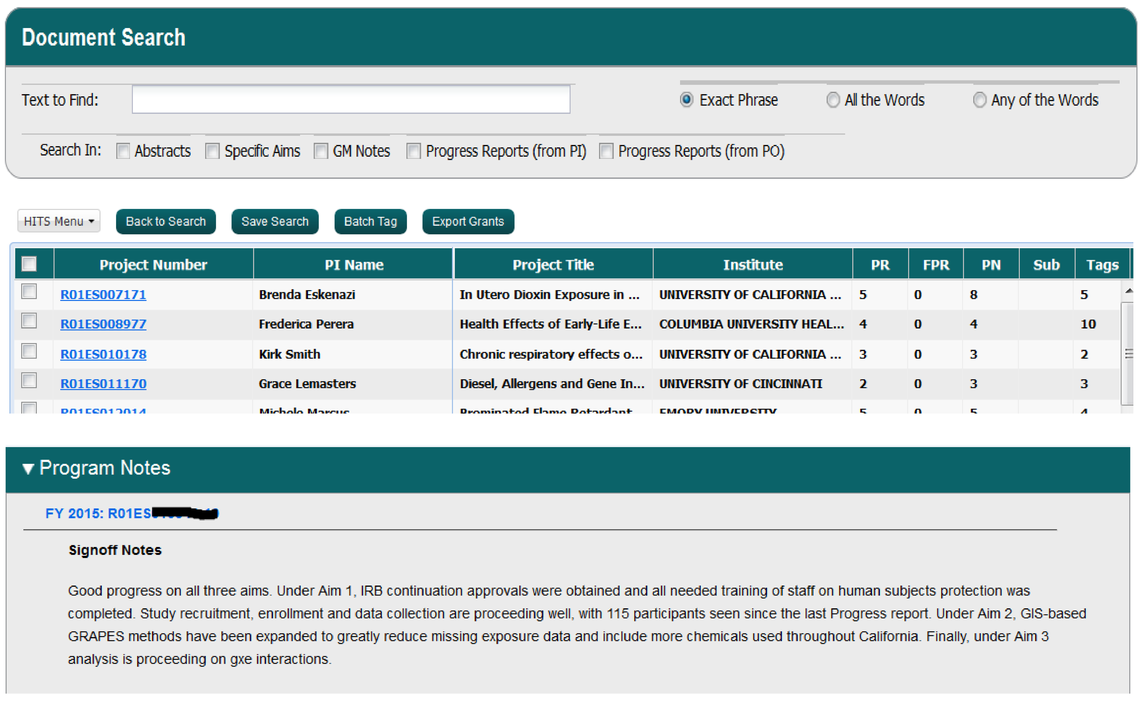
PROJECT NUMBER	SUBPROJECT ID	TITLE	TAGS
P01ES009600	9003	CORE--Community Outreach, Translation, and Application	0
P01ES009600	9004	CORE--Data Management, Statistics, and Modeling	0
P01ES009600	9002	CORE--Exposure and Biomarker	0
P01ES009600	4	Longitudinal Effects of Urban Pollutants on Child Neurobehavioral	0
P01ES009600	5	Prenatal & Postnatal Urban Pollutants & Childhood Asthma	0
P01ES009600	6	Reduction of Exposures & Risk from Pesticides, Allergens, & Other Health Related	0

▼ View Progress Reports

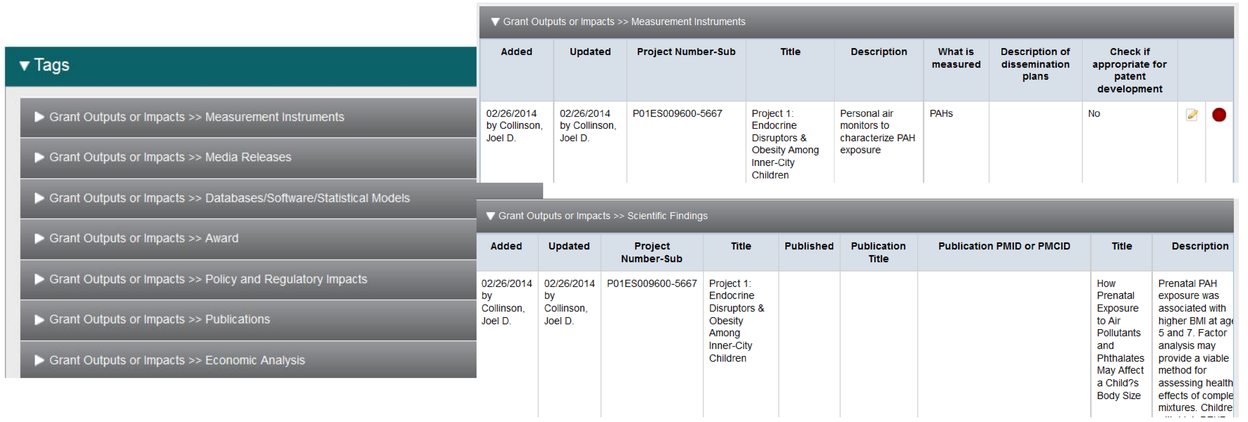
Progress Report 2013 : P01ES009600-15 | Progress Report 2012 : P01ES009600-14 | Progress Report 2011 : P01ES009600-13
Progress Report 2010 : P01ES009600-12 | Progress Report 2008 : P01ES009600-10 | Progress Report 2007 : P01ES009600-09

Automated Searching and Retrieval of Grantee Progress Reports and Program Officer Notes

The system enables us to search grantee progress reports, program officer notes and other previously unsearchable data from the central NIH grants database, and apply a robust coding schema to track research products and impacts.



Examples of Tags and Tag Details



Using HITS for Program Analysis

HITS uses in Program Analysis include:

- Tracking and informing reporting on strategic plan goals
- Assessing our papers of the month system,
- Identifying projects to highlight in Congressional Justifications
- Tracking which projects are mentioned in reports by the Director
- Identifying success stories to promote on the NIEHS website

Looking Forward

Planned enhancements to HITS include the ability to:

- Group and analyze coded projects by portfolios, including Strategic Plan goals
- Import coded datasets from Excel files
- Attach supplemental documents, such as press releases or other materials