



BRICCS FACT FILE

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- The Leicester Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit (BRU) at Glenfield Hospital is part of a multi-million pound scheme to prevent, diagnose and treat ill-health. It is one of 16 BRUs around England funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to focus on translational research.
- The Biomedical Research Informatics Centre for Cardiovascular Science (BRICCS) is a software platform to support translational research within the BRU. It will save precious time toward new research by leveraging existing clinical data for research purposes.
- The Leicester Cardiovascular BRU is a partnership between the University of Leicester and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL).
- The core of BRICCS will be a dedicated research database, the first of its kind in the UK, linked to a collection of blood samples from patient volunteers who have made their medical records available to researchers.
- BRICCS developers are working with a number of international projects to utilise open source clinical research tools within the BRICCS platform. The first three tools integrated into BRICCS will be:
 - caTissue – a biospecimen tracking and inventory tool produced under the US National Cancer Institute's Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG), <https://cabig.nci.nih.gov>
 - Onyx – a data collection and patient interview tool produced by the international OBiBa project, a core project of the Population Project in Genomics Consortium, <http://www.obiba.org>
 - i2b2 – Informatics for Integrating Biology and the Bedside – is a scalable informatics framework that enables clinical researchers to use existing clinical data for discovery research, developed by the US National Center for Biomedical Computing based at Partners Healthcare Systems / Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA, <http://www.i2b2.org>
- BRICCS will interface with the UHL's existing clinical data systems in various ways to provide clinical data to researchers while at all times respecting patient confidentiality and data security issues.
- Each of the tools deployed within BRICCS has been chosen for their applicability to GRID computing, enabling the BRU to develop information sharing with partner institutions world-wide.
- The BRU will open in April 2010; this will include the research outpatients department and recruiting for the patient research database.

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