Integrating Data Management Tools into Research Data Management Instruction

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Course Structure
The University of Massachusetts Medical School curriculum for undergraduate medical education includes a component called the Flexible Clinical Experiences (FCE). FCEs are short, student- or faculty-designed courses that enable participants to explore an area of clinical interest, to be exposed to medical specialties, or to pursue further learning in a specific field. The Lamar Soutter Library designed and offered an FCE on data management principles and best practices in FY 2015-2016.

- Eligible Students: Third-year medical students
- Duration: 1 week/40 hours of self-contained work
- Course status: For-credit evaluation-based elective
- Pre-requisites: None

Course Content
The New England Collaborative Data Management Curriculum (NECDMC) was tailored to meet the structural program requirements for the FCE. Additional content from other RDM instruction resources was incorporated, including Amanda Whitmire’s GRAD521 – Research Data Management course at Oregon State University and Nicole Vasilevsky et al.’s Gummi Bear Anatomy activity at Oregon Health & Science University.

- NECDMC modules 1-6 presented in 4, 3-hour lecture sessions throughout the week
- Supplemental readings and activities
- Guest speakers from UMMS: IRB and IT Security
- Gummi Bear Project

Tools
Data management tools were used to deliver course content and manage projects.

- LabArchives ELN: UMMS enterprise license
- DMPTool: free online data management plan generator

Outcomes
Participants in FCE3017: Research Data Management Fundamentals were able to successfully apply the basic principles of research data management in the context of a research project, while also utilizing and becoming familiar with available resources.