

2025 GIR Excellence Award Winner

Christopher W. Bartlett, PhD and Timothy Huerta, PhD for the LifeScale Project Team



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LifeScale is a secure, cloud-based platform that integrates clinical and research data from two major academic hospital systems—The Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital—to create a 360-degree view of patient health. By merging electronic health records with social determinants of health, mother-baby linkage, and other population-level factors, LifeScale addresses persistent data silos and broadens research opportunities across disciplines. Its coded-limited approach, governed under a single IRB protocol, preserves patient confidentiality while advancing data sharing.

LifeScale illustrates how academic medical centers across the nation can leverage cutting-edge information technology and robust governance to reduce institutional barriers, accelerate translational discoveries, and shape future healthcare innovation. Researchers can analyze diverse datasets through scalable AI/ML workflows, synthetic data generation, and collaborative tools (e.g., DataBricks), expanding the potential for transformative population health insights. By fostering interoperability and replicable models, LifeScale sets a precedent in responsible data stewardship, enhancing trust and collaboration among stakeholders. This holistic framework demonstrates how advanced informatics can be harnessed to enrich academic medicine's knowledge base, improve patient outcomes, and drive meaningful progress at the intersection of technology and healthcare.