The Team Science Toolkit: Spotlight on New Content and Functionality

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www.teamsciencetoolkit.cancer.gov

Resources to Address Your Interests

The Team Science Toolkit (www.teamsciencetoolkit.cancer.gov) is an **online one-stop-shop for resources and information** to help you engage in, lead, facilitate, support, evaluate or study team science, developed by the National Cancer Institute of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Toolkit capitalizes on the collective knowledge of all members of the team science community to create a **user-generated collection of resources and information** for effective team science. It consolidates evidence- and practice-based knowledge from across the many disciplines and fields generating SciTS scholarship, and the many stakeholder groups invested in the SciTS field.

Anyone can upload or download Toolkit resources, creating a continuously evolving knowledge store that represents the current "state of the science" in the SciTS field. **The Toolkit currently includes over 2000 resources.** It includes **three main types of resources:**

- **Practical tools** to help engage in, facilitate, or support team science;
- **Measures** that can be used to study or evaluate team science activities and initiatives; and
- **A bibliography** that integrates resources from the wide range of disciplines generating scholarship relevant to success in team science.

The Toolkit also includes a popular **expert blog** and a **vibrant linked listserv** (SCITSLIST), hosted by the NIH, which provide platforms for discussion of key issues, emerging interests, and news and events.

New Content and Functionality for 2015

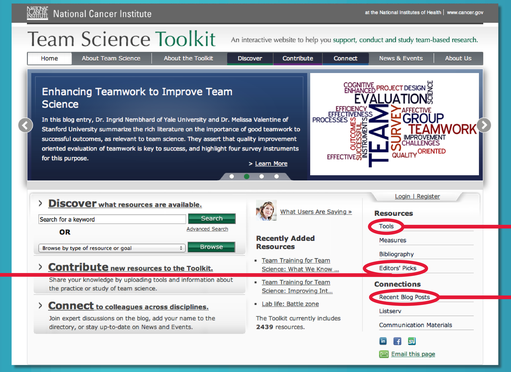
Since the Toolkit debuted at the spring 2011 SciTS Conference, new content and functionality have been added each year. **This poster highlights three key areas** of the Toolkit that have been very popular with users, and have been further developed in the last year: **(1) practical tools for team science, (2) Editors' Picks, and (3) expert blogs.**

Practical tools for team science in the Toolkit have been generated by investigators, administrators, funding agencies, and SciTS scholars. Examples include:

- **Pre-collaboration agreement templates,**
- **Self-assessment instruments** for quality improvement specific to team functioning,
- **Syllabi and training materials** to build team science skills,
- **Model promotion and tenure guidelines** that recognize team science, and
- **Operating manuals** for cross-institutional collaborations.

The Editors' Picks rating system was created to help Toolkit users navigate the large and growing set of resources on the Toolkit. The Toolkit's editorial board of fourteen leading SciTS scholars and practitioners have each selected up to 20 resources as "Editors' Picks".

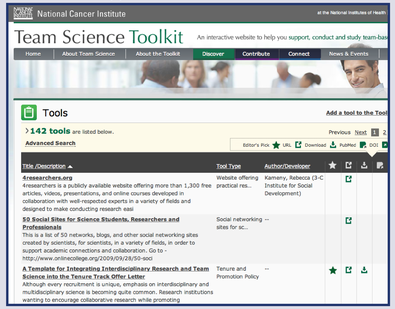
The expert blogs are written by hand selected experts who are engaged in team science, or studying team science. They represent a wide range of expertise and interests, such as virtual collaboration, interdisciplinary collaboration, management of large and complex collaborations, open science, and more.



https://www.teamsciencetoolkit.cancer.gov

Tools

Practical tools to help you engage in, lead, manage, facilitate or support team science.



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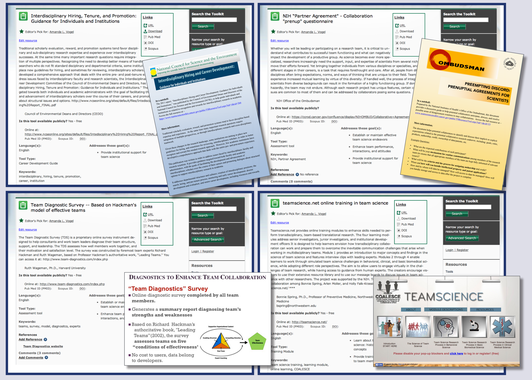
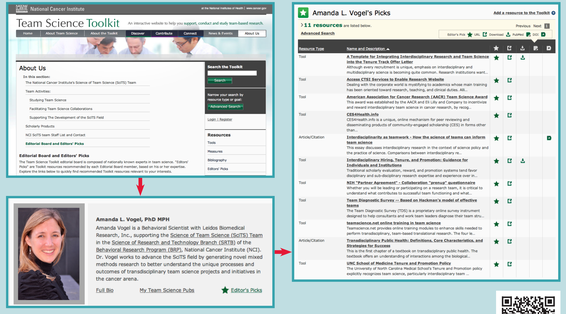
Example Tools:



Editors' Picks

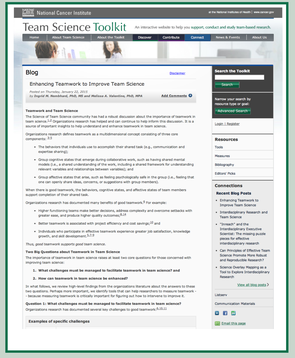
Toolkit resources recommended by nationally known experts in team science.



https://www.teamsciencetoolkit.cancer.gov/Public/EditorialBoard.aspx

Expert Blogs

Written by experts in team science and SciTS, addressing a broad range of cutting-edge topics.



https://www.teamsciencetoolkit.cancer.gov/Public/ExpertBlog.aspx?tid=4

Who will Benefit?

- **Investigators using team science approaches** who want to enhance their teams' functionality in order to maximize the quality of the science they produce. The Toolkit enables investigators to apply approaches that have been proven effective by colleagues in similar settings.
- **Team science scholars and evaluators** who wish to find or share a variety of often unpublished resources—including measures to study or evaluate team science, or tools for team science intervention studies—as well as those interested in searching a consolidated bibliography of team science relevant publications.
- **Academic institutions, businesses, funders, and other groups** that want to find or share resources for creating environments that are conducive to successful team science.
- **Funders** that support team science and want to find or share resources providing strategies for supporting and facilitating team science, such as funding announcements and protocols related to collaboration among grantees.
- **Those new to team science and SciTS** who wish to increase their knowledge.

Implications

By providing a forum for real time interchange among diverse stakeholders, independent of the timelines and disciplinary boundaries of conferences and publications, the Toolkit will help reduce unnecessary replications of knowledge and resources and hasten progress related to managing, supporting, facilitating, and studying team science.

By creating a single repository for SciTS resources across disciplines and settings, the Toolkit will support the integration of the SciTS field and highlight areas where further development is needed, such as additional practical tools to address common team science challenges or new or improved measures for important SciTS constructs. In these ways, the Toolkit should catalyze forward progress and innovation in the SciTS field. Read more about the Toolkit and its implications in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, December 2013 issue.*

Get Engaged

The success of the Toolkit depends upon the active participation of the wide range of stakeholders interested in team science and SciTS. The depth and breadth of resources in the Toolkit will reflect the interests and expertise of its users. We encourage you to engage with the Toolkit to share your knowledge, benefit from the knowledge of other users, and connect to colleagues who are interested in team science and SciTS.

*Vogel AL, Hall K, Fiore SM, Klein JT, Bennett LM, et al. The Team Science Toolkit: enhancing research collaboration through online knowledge sharing. *Am J Prev Med*, 2013; 45(6): 787-9.

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