

# Association of American Cancer Institutes

## Executive Summary

### Community Partner

Association of American Cancer Institutes

### Student Consulting Team

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## Background

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) is a member-based organization that serves as a platform for cancer centers across the country to share knowledge. Their 98 members consist of National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated and academic cancer centers who pay dues to AACI in order to share and receive information. Members share knowledge of ongoing cancer research through designated committees based on clinical research, financial, government relations, network care, and physician clinical leadership initiatives. Except for the small full-time staff employed by AACI, everyone at these cancer centers volunteer to participate as part of AACI. This is their website: <https://www.aaci-cancer.org/>.

## Project Description

### Project Opportunity

A large issue AACI currently faces is how information related to cancer legislation and advocacy reaches both AACI members and the public. The challenges listed below describe the issue in more detail.

**Challenge 1: Internal Communication on Cancer Legislation:** There is no easily digestible or centralized way of accessing and sharing information related to cancer legislation. Although AACI and its members regularly advocate for state-level legislative matters, important information and documentation is primarily shared through monthly phone calls, emails, and at in-person meetings. As a result, members have limited opportunities to adapt state legislation to their own locations in a timely manner.

**Challenge 2: Communicating with the Public About Cancer:** There is a lot of misinformation about cancer topics floating around, and AACI wants to provide a resource that correctly and succinctly informs people on topics such as HPV vaccination, oral chemotherapy, and tobacco use. AACI has positive working relationships with well-respected entities like the NCI, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Cancer Society. Through thorough research and vetting of resources by designated “curators,” AACI wants to collect reliable, evidence-based information in its resource library on par with the information these agencies share.

## **Project Vision**

The project vision is to enhance credibility, brand recognition, and advocacy efforts of AACI by creating an online platform that hosts procured legislative content in a digestible and shareable manner to better inform and educate a broad audience.

## **Project Outcomes**

The key outcomes of this project are: (i) the technical platform for a resource library that will be an online informational database available to the member organizations and the public; (ii) an information hierarchy, user stories, features list, and wireframes reusable as the client expands the project further; and (iii) an implementation and deployment of a CMS with a custom hosting solution with integrated git deployment.

At a higher level the project helped the client translate a key presidential initiative into tangible action steps and an initial solution that is sustainable and scalable. It empowers the client to communicate the importance of sustainable software development and iterative design to stakeholders and establish a communication channel for AACI community through a resource sharing platform. Finally, the project facilitates AACI to curate, host, and share content.

## **Project Deliverables**

Design Documents, technical documentation which includes installation and setup guides, admin setup guides, application architecture setup and cost analysis, planning documents, and a final report summary.

## **Recommendations**

We recommend that AACI continue building this project with the help of a contracted team of developers that are familiar with working with Craft CMS. They can move forward by implementing additional non-MVP features and adding more data to the site. The existing architecture can be scaled as more data is added and more people access and use the website without changing the integrity of the existing application. The library will also improve the accuracy of available cancer information to the public and will serve as the beginning point of what will hopefully grow to be a mainstream legislative cancer informational resource.

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## **Student Consulting Team**

**Taruna Emani** served as the design lead. In addition to her Information Systems degree, she will double major in Human-Computer Interaction. She will be interning at IBM this summer as a user experience designer.

**Erika Giuse** served as the technical lead. Her Information Systems concentration is in Computing, Information Systems, and Technology. She will be interning at Uber ATG this summer as a Map Tech Operations Intern.

**Maya Sripadam** served as project manager. In addition to her Information Systems degree, she will minor in Business Administration. She will be interning at Google this summer as an Associate Product Manager.