

IGS' ANUP MAHURKAR DEVELOPS AN EASIER WAY FOR CLINICIANS TO ANALYZE DATA



It's not uncommon for clinicians to ask themselves "What are the predictors of disease outcomes?" But often barriers—such as not being able to easily access, visualize, and analyze data—stands in their way of discovering the clues that ultimately might help their patients.

That's why [Lisa Shulman, MD](#), Professor of Neurology, at the University of Maryland Medical School contacted [Anup Mahurkar, MS](#), Executive Director, Bioinformatics Software Engineering, and the CIO at the Institute for Genome Sciences to create a simple solution.

The two, in partnership with Jonathan Crabtree, MS, created a new software program they dubbed POD-Vis—for Probing Outcomes Data with Visual Analytics—so that non-data scientists could visualize and analyze their own data.



"POD-Vis uses simple language of predictors and outcomes so that it's easy to explore data," says Mahurkar. "The user can view relationships in clinical data, as well as generate hypotheses and preliminary data for a project."

Already, POD-Vis is being tested by researchers in the Intramural Branch at the National Institute on Deafness and Communication Disorders (NIDCD) to analyze audiology data on twenty-thousand patients across multiple NIH institutes, as well as for a multicenter trial on using statins after chemotherapy to prevent hearing loss. POD-Vis also is being deployed at the UM3 Institute for Health Computing (IHC) for researchers there to visualize and analyze large clinical datasets.

Learn more about
POD-Vis at a Zoom
seminar on March 28
from noon to 1 pm.



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One user told us that POD-Vis makes data into a playground, Dr. Shulman says. That was the exact thing we were striving for: to make working with data easy and fun—though still relevant—for the non-trained person.

- LISA SHULMAN, MD

If you are interested in learning more about POD-Vis or have your clinical data loaded into POD-Vis please contact Dr. Shulman: ishulman@som.umaryland.edu or Mr. Mahurkar: amahurkar@som.umaryland.edu.