



## “Knowledge is Power”

### *caBIG™ in Action at Georgetown University*

**Dr. Louis M. Weiner:** I view caBIG™ as being absolutely essential to our strategic mission as we move forward. We have very ambitious plans for the implementation of an integrated clinical and molecular database that can ultimately guide personalized medicine. It’s my strong belief that by starting with a few cancers where we can prove that knowledge is power, we will set the stage for future developments in the field.

**Dr. Robert Clarke:** caBIG™ is a virtual research community that allows us to exchange ideas, to share data and to collaborate without the physical boundaries of being in the same room at the same time.

**Dr. Louis M. Weiner:** I quickly recognized how important it is for Lombardi to have access and for all cancer centers to have access to the kinds of tools that caBIG™ provides. The tissue repositories, the genomics repositories, the evolving clinical databases, are all elements of potential high value for cancer centers as they attempt to develop systems biology and systems medicine tools.

**Dr. Robert Clarke:** We have to handle massive datasets that previously were not generated and those have unique problems associated with them. These include storage of the data, sharing it, who has access, in addition to analyzing the data. caBIG™ provides a format and a structure that encompasses all of those issues. It provides a way to store and share the data and it contains tools that allow us to analyze the data in ways that we could not have done before. Cancer research gets done in many different ways. It gets done on individual cells and cell lines that we grow in cell culture. It gets done in animal models of particular diseases that we have. It gets done in large populations and it gets done in clinical trials. The caBIG™ community allows us to support work that we do at every one of those levels. In the past, we did science in our little ivory towers and our little labs. Now, there’s a community out there that we can access across all of the United States. The opportunity to share data in real time and to find out whose got what data and where it is is also a terrific resource that we would not have had without caBIG™

**Stephen Moore:** The grid certainly will be important in years to come, because that is the emerging way that we’re going to increasingly share large volumes of information. The tools themselves will continue to evolve and be refined, but as we go into translational science, there’ll be need for new tools. So we have a mechanism to identify the requirements for those new tools.

**Dr. Robert Clarke:** We see caBIG™ supporting our ability to deliver personalized medicine by allowing us to share our knowledge and our understanding and our data with others in a way that creates datasets that are much larger than could ever be generated by a single institution or a single program.



**Jieping Li:** We were one of the first institutions to implement caBIG™ tools such as C3D, C3PR... Lombardi is one of the seven hospitals within MassStar network in this region and we are able to use those tools to conduct a trial doing the multi-center trial accrual so people can be able to enter the data remotely. (Li)

**Stephen Moore:** Had it not been for caBIG™...we would have never had the opportunity to work with the folks at NCI like we are now, and with Ohio State, and with Duke, and with the other institutions.

**Dr. Louis M. Weiner:** caBIG™ is one of these large-scale activities that excites passions in people. Some people are very positive about it. Others are skeptical because of the large scale and the necessary difficulties that have to be surmounted in order to bring any effort of this size and complexity to fruition. I would say that everybody needs to judge for themselves what they think they can get out of it; I have concluded that there are many facets of the caBIG™ enterprise that can be very useful to help me accomplish my goals. I think that the caBIG™-enabled integrated databases are going to transform medicine, and they're certainly going to transform cancer and cancer research.

## Interviewees

**Louis M. Weiner, M.D.**

Director

Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center/Georgetown U.

**Robert Clarke, Ph.D., D.Sc.**

Professor & Co-Director

Breast Cancer Program Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center/Georgetown U.

**Stephen Moore**

Director

Advanced Research Computing Georgetown University

**Jieping Li, M.B.A.**

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For more information, please visit <http://cabig.cancer.gov>