

Biostatistics/ Epidemiology/ Research Design (BERD) Core

- BERD is a core component of the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS)
- BERD consists of
 - Biostatistics and epidemiology faculty from the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Clinical and Translational Sciences (DCTS)
 - Data managers, data management analysts, statisticians, and other support staff from CCTS

Who are members of BERD?

- Director of BERD and DCTS
 - Mohammad H. Rahbar, PhD
- 1 faculty epidemiologist
 - Erin Fox, PhD(with cross appointments in BERD)
- 4 faculty biostatisticians
 - Mohammad H. Rahbar, PhD; Xu Zhang, PhD; Resmi Gupta, PhD; and Wen Li, PhD
- 5 staff
 - 2 Data Managers/Data Management Analysts/ Statistical Programmers
 - 3 other research support staff including Research Assistants

BERD Mission

- To promote innovative, state-of-the-art clinical and translational (CT) research of maximum public health and scientific benefit by
 - Develop short- and long-term **collaborations** between CT investigators and members of our network of BERD experts at UTHHealth and other partnered institutions, including UT MDACC
 - Contribute to the formal **training and mentoring** of the next generation of CT scientists with the necessary BERD skills they need to be successful
 - Contribute to the development of **innovative study designs (e.g., Adaptive Design) and new statistical methods (e.g., Recurrent Event Data Analysis)** to advance CT research

BERD Support Areas

- Study design
 - Including support in the preparation of grant proposals
 - Data management
- Statistical analysis and interpretation
 - Including support in the preparation of publications
- Managing large Data Coordinating Centers or Data Cores
- Clinical trial services
 - Statistical analysis plan and sample size
 - Adaptive trial designs
 - Randomization schemes
 - Stopping rules
 - Other services including development of databases for trials

How is BERD support funded?

- Initial BERD consultation to assess investigator's needs is free of charge
- Through collaboration on grants or contracts
 - Fixed percentage of effort for BERD faculty/staff is budgeted on future grant applications
 - Ensures that the necessary BERD resources will be available when the application is funded
- Through departments funding a fixed percentage of BERD faculty/staff effort
 - Ensures that the department's faculty and trainees have timely access to statistical and epidemiologic expertise
- Through a Fee-for-Service Contract
 - Must be pre-negotiated with BERD/DCTS Director

How to contact BERD

- Go to our website (currently under re-design)
<https://www.uth.edu/ccts/services/berd>
- Look for the link to the BERD project initiation form
 - <https://www.uth.edu/ccts/assets/docs/BERD%20Project-Initiation-Form-New.pdf>
- Send all inquiries and/or BERD project initiation forms to
 - Mohammad.H.Rahbar@uth.tmc.edu
- For any questions about BERD please contact BERD Director or Assistant at (713) 500-7901
 - or visit the DCTS website
 - <https://med.uth.edu/internalmedicine/clinical-and-translational-sciences/>