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
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 UTHealth 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/