Biostatistics/ Epidemiology/ Research Design (BERD)

- BERD is a 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, Ph.D.

- **2 Faculty epidemiologists**
  - Erin Fox, Ph.D. (with cross appointments in BERD)
  - Sepideh Saroukhani, Ph.D. in Epidemiology with a minor in Biostatistics.

- **5 Faculty biostatisticians**
  - Mohammad H. Rahbar, Ph.D.; Xu Zhang, Ph.D.; Wen Li, Ph.D., Deukwoo Kwon, Ph.D.; and Akram Yazdani, Ph.D.

- **4 staff**
  - 1 Program Manager-Research (Data Manager)
  - 1 Biostatistician (Data Management and Statistical Analyst)
  - 3 other research support staff (Graduate Research Assistants)
To promote innovative, state-of-the-art clinical and translational (CT) research of maximum public health and scientific benefit by:

- Developing 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
- Contributing to the formal training and mentoring of the next generation of CT scientists with the necessary BERD skills they need to be successful
- Contributing 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
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 the development of databases for trials
How is BERD support funded?

- Initial BERD consultation to assess the 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 his Administrative Assistant at (713) 500-7901
  - or visit the DCTS website
  - https://med.uth.edu/internalmedicine/clinical-and-translational-sciences/