

## 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
- 2 faculty epidemiologists
  - Erin Fox, PhD; Farhaan Vahidy, PhD (with cross appointments)
- 5 faculty biostatisticians
  - Mohammad H. Rahbar, PhD; MinJae Lee, PhD; Chunyan Cai, PhD; Liang Zhu, PhD; Xu Zhang, PhD
- 6 staff
  - 2 Data Managers/Data Management Analysts/ Statistical Programmers
  - 4 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
  - Contributing to the enhancement and further development of CT research infrastructure within CCTS and across UTHHealth
  - Develop short- and long-term collaborations between CT investigators and members of our network of BERD experts
  - 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 advances in BERD within 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)
  - <http://www.uth.edu/ccts/services/berd.htm>
- Look for the link to the BERD project initiation form
  - <http://cctsberd.files.wordpress.com/2009/05/berd-project-initiation-form-new.pdf>
- Send all inquiries and/or BERD project initiation forms to
  - [Shezeen.Gillani@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Shezeen.Gillani@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/im/divisions/clinical-and-translational-sciences/>