

# 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)

# BERD Mission

- 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

# 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 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](mailto: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/>