

## **Biostatistics Key Function**

The Biostatistics Key Function of the CTSI provides basic statistical and epidemiological support to translational research. Investigators performing translational research at any of the partner institutions are invited and encouraged to use this key function to help with study design and analysis. The current services include a drop-in statistical consulting service, a more extensive statistical consulting service, review and assistance with preparation of proposals for the translational research units (TRU), epidemiological data service, and a series of basic statistical educational activities.

### **Consulting Service:**

Biostatistical support for the CTSI is primarily provided by faculty and staff of the MCW Division of Biostatistics and its Biostatistics Consulting Service (BCS). The BCS operates a drop-in consulting service daily at MCW and alternating Mondays at Marquette and the VA.

The service is available:

- 1-3pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Froedtert TRU Offices Room: L777A
- 1-3pm on Tuesday and Thursday, Room H2400, MCW Health Research Center
- 8:30-11:30am — 1st & 3rd Monday of the month, VA Adult TRU Offices Room: 111B-5423
- 8:30-11:30am — 2nd & 4th Monday of the month, Olin Engineering, Room 338, Marquette

Staff is available to answer statistical questions, help formulate study ideas, interpret statistical methods in papers, and answer statistical computing questions. Last year the drop-in service saw over 100 clients.

By appointment, the Biostatistics consulting service provides statistical consulting on study de-sign and analysis. The faculty and staff statisticians have extensive experience in providing this service. In the last year, we have worked with over 140 investigators from every department at MCW, as well as from a number of Marquette, VA, and UWM departments. BCS staff helps investigators with statistical support for many grant applications. One of the BCS statisticians is assigned to each of the TRU's to help with protocol preparation and review. The BCS provides a number of free hours to all investigators, which covers most projects.

### **Epidemiology Data Service**

This service assists investigators in locating, acquiring, and using secondary data sets. The EDS is a member of the national Center for Health Statistics Data Dissemination Program, and it also maintains ties with other national, state, local, and private health agencies. The current collection includes over 200 secondary databases on topics such as health behaviors, vital events, ambulatory care, inpatient care, long-term care, and

medical expenditures. The collection also contains demographic data from the US Census Bureau and spatial data. The EDS also provides support for the use of the Geographic Information System (GIS) technology by health researchers.

**Statistical Education for Researchers:**

In the coming year, the monthly lecture series by Division of Biostatistics faculty and staff will include new talks on statistics in diagnostic medicine, survival analysis, and design of clinical trials, as well as repeat of some of the most popular presentations from the past year. The talks are aimed at clinical and basic scientists and are focused on interpretation of statistical results rather than on computations. Videos of these presentations will be made available to CTSI researchers. Copies are available for check-out from the MCW libraries.

These lectures are supplemented by a bimonthly newsletter, "DATUM", which provides additional details and examples of how the statistical methods discussed in the lectures have been applied to projects here at MCW. DATUM also has a regular column on new data sets available for use on graphical statistical methods and statistical software.

