

Biostat CIRCL Information for College of Public Health Faculty

About Us

The Biostatistics Consulting and Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration Lab (Biostat CIRCL) is a group of biostatisticians who specialize in balancing rigorous statistical methodology with the complex challenges of interdisciplinary biomedical and public health research. Our goal is to work with investigators as a research partner in order to optimize data-driven discoveries. The Biostat CIRCL is not a service core; it is an organization that fosters research partnerships for biostatisticians as team scientists.

We are comprised of both faculty and staff in the Department of Biostatistics. Our current team is below, and we are actively recruiting new members as well!



Emily Slade



Chris McLouth



Tony Mangino



Will Cranford



Kory Heier



Sarah Robbins

Scope of Work

The College of Public Health Research Office (on behalf of CPH faculty) has established a partnership with the Biostat CIRCL that is intended to grow the CPH faculty research capacity for externally funded research as principal investigators. CPH faculty are encouraged to work with the Biostat CIRCL in unfunded phases of research in order to improve and accelerate projects that may lead toward external funding. CPH faculty have access to the Biostat CIRCL through two avenues: voucher applications and open consulting appointments.

Voucher applications

Vouchers are designed to establish formal collaboration on a short-term project such as data analysis and statistical writing for a manuscript or study design for a single grant proposal. Any CPH faculty member can apply for a voucher, and vouchers are awarded based on availability and expertise of CIRCL biostatisticians (typically first come, first served). Vouchers are funded by the CPH Research Office; as such, individual investigators are not responsible for funding biostatistician time/effort. Biostatistician time varies from project to project. When a new voucher is awarded, the lead CIRCL biostatistician for the project will develop a Statistical Analysis Plan that describes in detail the planned statistical analyses. This document serves as the agreement of biostatistician time/effort. To submit a voucher application, go to:

<http://bit.ly/BiostatCIRCLvoucher>.

Open consulting

The Biostat CIRCL offers regular, open consulting appointments that can be booked by any CPH faculty member. An open consulting appointment is a 30-minute meeting designed for quick questions or brief advice, not for data analysis or formal collaboration. To book a consulting appointment, go to: <http://calendly.com/BiostatCIRCL>.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Is the Biostat CIRCL a service/technical core?

No, CIRCL biostatisticians are team scientists who work with investigators as research partners. We never analyze data without deeply understanding the research questions, how the data were collected, and what important information may not have been measured. Selecting and interpreting appropriate statistical analyses not only requires expertise in statistical methodology, but it also requires critical assessment of factors related to study design. In fact, the most successful projects include collaboration with biostatisticians in the study design phase as well as the analysis phase of the project.

- Do voucher applications cover biostatistical needs on funded grants?

No, funded projects typically require long-term, ongoing effort by a biostatistician and thus should include and fund a biostatistician directly on the proposal. The voucher applications described in this document are intended to support short-term, unfunded phases of research such as a single manuscript or a single grant proposal and are not appropriate for long-term, ongoing collaboration.

- Can CIRCL biostatisticians be included on grant proposals?

The capability for Biostat CIRCL faculty to join grant proposals as key personnel is subject to interest, expertise, and availability of the Biostat CIRCL faculty member, just as it would be for any other team scientist. This should be requested and negotiated directly with the individual Biostat CIRCL faculty member. Requests for staff support to be written into grant proposals should go to Emily Slade (emily.slade@uky.edu).

- Can students utilize Biostat CIRCL resources?

No, the CPH Research Office has negotiated this agreement only for CPH faculty in order to grow the capacity for the CPH faculty to obtain external funding as principal investigators.

- Should CIRCL biostatisticians be included as co-authors on manuscripts?

We follow the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)'s recommendation for criteria warranting authorship on scientific manuscripts which can be found at <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>. Brief statistical advice does not warrant authorship, but in most cases, contributions to projects including study design and/or data analysis would meet these criteria.