

## Biostatistics Core

The NEI P30 Core, through the Research Programming & Computational Analysis Core is now offering limited biostatistics support through an agreement with the Ophthalmology Clinical Research Unit (CRU) described below. The core provides biostatistics support for clinical, basic, and translational research.

The CRU was implemented in 2002 by Drs. Cynthia Owsley and Gerald McGwin through a NEI Clinical Research Development Award (R21EY14071).

### Core Purpose:

To provide biostatistical consultation to Principal Investigators whose projects focus on eye disease and vision impairment and span the gamut of basic laboratory, clinical, and/or translational research. The CRU team provides support in three broad areas: (1) study development (declaring research hypotheses / objectives); (2) study design (matching research hypotheses / objectives to the appropriate statistical / experimental / epidemiologic framework); and (3) statistical analysis (matching theoretical models to that framework). The team works collaboratively with Principal Investigators to provide consultation, guidance, and expertise for study design, data management, and statistical analysis. The goal is to provide the methodological expertise as a single coordinated resource and match individual methodological skills and interests with study-specific needs in order to advance research. Investigators access these resources by in-person or electronic directed consultation. The CRU is located in Suite 609, Callahan Eye Hospital, 700 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street.

To make use of the CRU Biostatistics Core:

Please send all inquiries and requests directly to Gerald McGwin PhD at [mcgwin@uab.edu](mailto:mcgwin@uab.edu).

### Important Considerations:

- Requests for assistance are handled on a first come, first served basis, thus for time sensitive requests, investigators should contact the CRU as early as possible. This is particularly true during November and April, when the request queue lengthens due to ARVO-related deadlines.
- Investigators should also be specifically aware that the CRU requires adequate lead-time for requests for assistance with grant applications. The CRU biostatisticians require time to understand a grant application in its entirety in order to prepare an appropriate statistical analysis plan. These plans cannot be written in isolation; they must take into account important components of the research plan including the Aims, Study Design and Study Measurements.
- In recognition of the vital role that biostatistical expertise plays in manuscripts and abstracts it is important for Investigators to be mindful of the fact that many Journals require that such individuals be included as authors on publications. Any concerns with this arrangement should be discussed prior to beginning the project.