

CTSA Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Research Design (BERD) Key Function Committee

Evaluation Group

February 24, 2009

Meeting Summary

BERD Evaluation Group

Time: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET

Attendees: D. Rubio, Pittsburgh (Chair); D. Del Junco, UT-Houston (incoming Chair); G. Beck, Case Western; S. Chow, Duke; D. Dixon, NIAID; L. Johnson, NCCAM; Y. Li, Duke; M. Lindstrom, UW-Madison; M. Mazumdar, Cornell; I. Ostrom, NCRP; R. Oster, Alabama-Birmingham; J. Torner, Iowa; K. Wittkowski, Rockefeller; L. Xu, Vanderbilt.

I. Report on Results from Presenting the Document to the Evaluation Key Function Committee

Dr. Rubio presented the Evaluation Guidelines document to the Evaluation Key Function Committee (KFC) at their last meeting. The KFC was very enthusiastic about the work that this Group has done and is doing. The KFC also indicated that it wanted to see the work continue and see the document expanded upon. The Evaluation KFC asked many questions about the current usage of the model and the plans to implement it at CTSA institutions.

Dr. Ostrom noted that the CTSA evaluation contract has been awarded. The awardee, Westat, has also seen the Guidelines document and thinks it is a very good model to keep in mind as they go forward looking at national models of evaluation. The Group indicated that Westat should be invited to sit in on future conference calls.

Finally, the Evaluation KFC suggested that a report on the Guidelines be published in an upcoming edition of the CTSA e-Newsletter. Dr. Rubio is working on this with NCRP, and hopes to have a piece in the March edition of the e-Newsletter.

II. Developing the Remaining 3 Areas

Dr. Rubio identified the three remaining areas of focus for the Guidelines. The Group then discussed each area briefly, before suggesting that a few members brainstorm together on each area between now and the next Evaluation Group meeting.

1. Tracking BERD activities on the national level

Potential starting points for this area include tracking what other groups and organizations BERD members are associated with; CTSpedia; and other metrics aside from the basic day-to-day operations of which members are all aware.

Drs. Chow, Lindstrom, Thurston and Torner volunteered to discuss this topic prior to the next meeting. Dr. Lindstrom will gather the group for its discussion.

2. Stories of investigators that would help

This area will focus on stories about how we help people and reshape their research. These types of stories can be useful, particularly if the Group can capture the spirit behind the stories. Sometimes reporting numbers can fall flat without a compelling story to present them. These stories can also be reflected in the CTSA e-Newsletter and Amstat news.

Drs. Del Junco, Kutner, Rubio and Wittkowski will discuss this area.

3. Tracking the mentoring of investigators

This area should focus on junior level individuals across the board, including post-docs and pre-docs. The Group determined that mentoring should not just be limited to statistics, but should also look to methods and discussion sections of papers, so that they appropriately reflect the corresponding issues.

An e-mail will go out to the entire Group to solicit volunteers for this area.

III. Implementation of Metrics

The implementation of metrics appears to the direction for the group to be moving in, while looking at two key questions:

- A. What institutions are using this?
- B. Are there specific measures and methods to share?

The Group determined that it can work on these simultaneously as it develops the other three areas mentioned above. Updates on those three areas will be given during the next meeting, and at that point the Group will move forward with the implementation of metrics.

IV. Next Steps

Dr. Rubio announced that Dr. Del Junco had been nominated and appointed as the new Chair of the BERD Evaluation Group.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the BERD Evaluation Group is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM EST

VI. Action Items

#	Action Items	Owner	Due Date
1	Work with the NIH/NCRR to have a piece on the Evaluation Guidelines in the April edition of the CTSA e-Newsletter	Dr. Rubio	3/23/09
2	Conduct brainstorming sessions with regard to	Drs. Chow,	3/23/09

	the three areas to be developed	Lindstrom, Thurston and Torner (Area 1); Drs. Del Junco, Kutner, Rubio and Wittkowski (Area 2).	
3	E-mail the BERD Evaluation Group to solicit volunteers to participate in brainstorming on developing Area 3, <i>Tracking the mentoring of investigators</i>	Dr. Del Junco/Mr. Mehrnama	3/5/09