

**CTSA Biostatistics/Epidemiology/Research Design (BERD) Key Function
Committee
Evaluation Group
March 31, 2009
Meeting Summary**

BERD Evaluation Group

Time: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET

Participants: D. del Junco, UT-Houston (Chair); J. Beck, Case Western; R. Bhore UT-Southwestern; R. Dominik, UNC; F. Enders, Mayo; S. Fernandez, Ohio State; T. Karrison, Chicago; D. Kyriacou, Northwestern; M. Kutner, Emory; M. Lindstrom, Wisconsin; I. Orams, NCRR; R. Oster, Alabama-Birmingham; B. Pollock, UT-San Antonio; D. Rubio, Pittsburgh; P. Stewart, North Carolina; J. Torner, Iowa; P. Wakim, NIDA; K. Wittkowski, Rockefeller

Agenda

I. Report on Action Items

- A. Work with NIH/NCRR for an article on the Evaluation Guidelines in the CTSA e-Newsletter
 - The March edition of the CTSA e-Newsletter contained the article on the Evaluation Guidelines .
 - As a result of this publication, Dr. Rubio received a call from one institution's evaluation group trying to figure out how to work these Guidelines into their evaluation process.
- B. Conduct brainstorming sessions with regard to the areas to be developed
 - See Below

II. Developing the Remaining 3 Areas

- A. Tracking BERD Activities on the National Level (Drs. Chow, Lindstrom, Thurston, Torner)
 - This group has yet to brainstorm formally.
 - The Evaluation Group devoted some time to the brainstorming during this meeting. The group discussed tracking of BERD-related activities at national scientific meetings and the need to post announcements of upcoming BERD-related national meetings to promote BERD participation and greater visibility.
 - The brainstorming led to a discussion of the variation across CTSA-BERDs in the number and type of publications reported in CTSpedia and in annual progress reports to NCRR.
 - Although this is a CTSA-wide issue, the group decided that discussing it within BERD would be beneficial to the entire Consortium.
 - **DECISION:** The group decided to create a 4th area devoted to looking at the operational definitions and clarifications with regard to reporting on publications.

- The group discussed that this publication reporting issue overlaps with the existing evaluation metrics, I #4 and I #5 (see BERD Evaluation Guidelines V42).
 - We need volunteers to serve on a group to define criteria (and perhaps a classification scheme, e.g., reports of multi-disciplinary CTS investigations vs development of BERD-related methodologies) for the type of publications to be listed in CTSpedia and in each CTSA's annual NCRR progress reports.
 - The new group will determine whether to solely focus on publications, or whether to include other national activities as well.
 - **ACTION:** Drs. del Junco and Lindstrom volunteered to spearhead this group, and will reach out to BERD for other volunteers.
- B. Stories of Investigators (Drs. Rubio, del Junco, Kutner, Wittkowski)
- The group will try to develop a template for the stories, focusing on providing anecdotal evidence.
 - Some emphasis will be placed on finding stories that are illustrative of roadblocks, even if the stories do not necessarily end "successfully."
 - If successful in gathering stories, the group will seek to have some published in AmStat News.
- C. Tracking the Mentoring of Investigators (Dr. Hurwitz)
- Discussion on this item was brief.
 - This group may merge with group 2, Stories of Investigators, at some point.

III. Implementation of Metrics

- A. How Many Institutions are Using Each Component Metric?
- Some institutions are adamantly opposed to using some component metrics (e.g., tracking hours worked), however, there may be more willingness to simply classify effort on projects as small, moderate, large.
 - The group decided to develop a survey on the use of each component metric, in which we focus on how the guidelines/metrics are implemented across different CTSA BERDs.
 - **ACTION:** Drs. Bhore and Rubio will look at the living evaluation guidelines document in order to come up with ideas for survey items.
- B. Are there Specific Measures and Methods (including Instruments/Tools) to Share?
- This item will be addressed as the individual CTSA-BERDs respond to the survey that is planned.(see III. A)

IV. Next Steps

- Dr. Rubio volunteered to serve as the liaison between the BERD Evaluation Group and the Evaluation Key Function Committee of the CTSA.
- Dr. Rubio will provide both groups with updates from the other.

V. Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET

VI. Action Items

#	Action Items	Owner	Due Date
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1	Spearhead a group to focus on the new area regarding criteria for reporting on publications.	Drs. del Junco and Lindstrom	4/21/09
2	Reach out to BERD members to serve as volunteers for the group on tracking/reporting publications.	Drs. del Junco and Lindstrom	4/14/09
3	Begin gathering stories of investigators that are illustrative of roadblocks and/or successes.	Drs. del Junco, Kutner, Rubio and Wittkowski	4/21/09
4	Look at the living evaluation guidelines document to begin formulating questions for a survey on how evaluation metrics are implemented across different CTSA BERDs.	Drs. Bhore and Rubio	4/21/09