

Biostat CIRCL Information for the College of Health Sciences

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 research. Our goal is to work with you to build an effective research team in order to optimize data-driven discoveries. The Biostat CIRCL is not a service core; it is an organization that integrates biostatisticians into research teams as team scientists.

Scope of Work

The Biostat CIRCL is available to partner on unfunded projects for up to 8 hours per week (total time shared across the College). This work may include:

- Developing statistical analysis plans for manuscripts, unfunded pilot studies, etc.
- Data analysis for abstracts, manuscripts, unfunded pilot studies, etc.
- Writing/editing statistical methods and results for manuscripts, including production of publication-quality tables and figures
- Grant proposal contributions including study design, sample size calculations, and preparation of statistical analysis plans *
- Statistical advice via email, phone, or meeting (may be virtual)
- Attendance at research team meetings, journal clubs, etc. (may be virtual)
- Personalized seminars or workshops for your group (may be virtual)

* Note: Effort devoted to grants refers only to unfunded activities, such as preparing proposals for submission. If you would like to include Biostat CIRCL personnel on a grant application, please reach out to us first so we can discuss the project and effort needed. To ensure clarity and appropriate commitments, please do not include Biostat CIRCL personnel, funding, or letters of support in any proposal without written approval from our team. We will do our best to help identify quantitative co-investigators for grant proposals; however, availability and interest may vary depending on project needs and personnel capacity.

Access

To initiate collaboration on a new project, please complete the Biostat CIRCL Project Intake Form, which you can find here: <https://bit.ly/BiostatCIRCLproject>.

The lead biostatistician for your group is **Dr. Yana Feygin (yana.feygin@uky.edu)**. For brief statistical advice or other correspondence, you are welcome to reach out via email.

The Biostat CIRCL uses a team-based approach. The lead biostatistician is your primary point of contact, but depending on the needs of each project, other members of the Biostat CIRCL may also collaborate in order to improve efficiency. To promote effective team science, we encourage your group to embed the lead biostatistician in your research team as much as possible by including them during the study design phase and in research team meetings, journal clubs, etc.

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 the aforementioned factors related to study design. In fact, the most successful projects include biostatisticians in the study design phase as well as the analysis phase of the project.

- 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.

- Do CIRCL biostatisticians need authorship on manuscripts if our group is funding them?

Funding and authorship are independent considerations. The Biostat CIRCL requires funding in order to employ excellent biostatisticians, and regardless of funding, intellectual contributions to research should be recognized with authorship as they would be for any other team scientist (see ICMJE guidelines mentioned above).

- Can CIRCL biostatisticians be included on grant proposals?

Biostat CIRCL faculty may be available to join grant proposals as key personnel, subject to their own interest, expertise, and availability. This should be requested and negotiated directly with the individual Biostat CIRCL faculty member, just as it would be for any other co-investigator. To discuss options for staff support on funded projects, reach out to BiostatCIRCL@uky.edu. Be sure to obtain written agreement from the Biostat CIRCL prior to writing in any faculty or staff on a proposal.