Abstracts

My experiences as a collaborative biostatistician working on infectious disease clinical trials

Madeline Abbott, the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research (CBAR) at Harvard University

I am a Research Associate in the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research (CBAR) in the Harvard School of Public Health. Prior to joining CBAR, I completed my PhD in Biostatistics at the University of Michigan in 2024. As a graduate student, I worked on research projects with applications ranging from cancer to mobile health. Through these experiences, I realized that I enjoyed working closely with clinical collaborators to answer current scientific questions. I also realized that I was interested not only in the statistics, but also in understanding the scientific context behind the statistical work. This led me to my current position at CBAR. At CBAR, I work on clinical trials for the treatment and prevention of HIV and tuberculosis, collaborating closely with clinicians as part of the International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network. My responsibilities range from developing safety monitoring and statistical analysis plans to reviewing case report forms and enrollment materials, as well as pursuing statistical methods research motivated by the clinical trial data. In this talk, I will describe my path to this position, my current responsibilities, and my experiences as an early-career collaborative biostatistician.

Training in a Data Coordinating Center: Fostering the Development of Highly Collaborative and Effective Early Career Biostatisticians

Megan McCabe, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Collaborative clinical research environments, and data coordinating centers (DCCs) in particular, require a diverse, interdisciplinary skillset, which is generally not the focus of graduate-level statistics or biostatistics coursework. Instead, these skills are typically learned and developed through research assistantships, internships, or other types of experiential learning opportunities.

Dr. McCabe trained in an academic DCC, the CTSDMC, and has pursued a career in academic DCCs post-graduation as the Assistant Director for Clinical Trials Development for the DATA CRU (UAB). Experiences as a graduate research assistant in a DCC were foundational for understanding the dynamic research environment associated with complex clinical research studies. At the CTSDMC, the speaker was the inaugural Network for Excellence in Neuroscience Clinical Trials (NeuroNEXT) Biostatistics Fellow and had the opportunity to gain experience working on clinical research studies from pre-award grant submission through dissemination and publication of results. In addition to academic DCC experience, she also completed two fellowships associated with FDA, as well as a co-op at a pharmaceutical company, Boehringer Ingelheim. This presentation will highlight the speaker's firsthand experience with training in a DCC environment and other experiential learning opportunities during her doctoral studies and how these experiences have facilitated her transition to faculty post-graduation.

Growing as a Collaborative Biostatistician in a Data Coordinating Center

Margaret Banker, Northwestern University

As an early-career faculty biostatistician in academic clinical research, I work in a Data Coordinating Centers (DCCs) where I collaborate with investigators to design, conduct, and analyze multicenter observational studies. This statistical collaboration involves developing statistical analysis plans, monitoring data quality, managing study data, and performing analyses that support study objectives and publications. In this talk, I will discuss experiences from two national research networks: the Glycemic Observation and Metabolic Outcomes in Mothers and Offspring (GOMOMS) study, coordinated through Northwestern University, and the Cure Glomerulonephropathy (CureGN) study, coordinated through the University of Michigan. I will highlight the diverse roles of biostatisticians in Data Coordinating Centers (DCCs) and offer an early-career perspective on the opportunities and challenges of collaborative biomedical research.

My Journey Through Clinical Trials: Experiences as a Faculty Member Working with a Data Coordinating Center

Emily Roberts, University of Iowa

As an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Iowa, a significant proportion of my role is within our Clinical Trials Statistical and Data Management Center (CTSDMC) Data Coordinating Center (DCC). In particular, I work within the NeuroNEXT network to help design and analyze neurology-related clinical trials. I will share my experiences to date of transitioning from a graduate student to faculty member including my responsibilities within NeuroNEXT where I currently lead our pre-award team of biostatisticians.