Center for Epidemiologic and Comparative Effectiveness Research

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Goals

• To provide faculty and trainees with facilitated access and analysis of large human medical databases to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human disease.

• To provide advice regarding which databases are most suitable for specific clinical questions, and facilitate study design and analysis.
  – To facilitate users to query datasets, discover new findings, interpret those findings and work collaboratively with the CTSI to translate these findings.
Activities

• To compile a listing of available national and international databases that would include:
  – enrollment statistics, source
  – how to access the databases,
  – how to navigate the various contracting and human subject protection requirements.

• To assist faculty and trainees identify the most appropriate database to interrogate for specific research questions
Activities (contd).

• To provide access to commercially available administrative and other databases, & obtain limited access datasets for epidemiological cohort studies and national surveys

• To facilitate access to clinical databases of health systems and payers

• To provide statistical, epidemiologic, and programming support
Activities (contd).

• To provide a training function to support existing and planned educational activities especially including career development grants (T, K awards), and graduate and post-graduate programs

• To serve an educational function by developing a seminar series on the uses and applications of different databases
Funding & Oversight

• Funded initially by DOM, and will phase in a fee for service charge structure.

• The Center will be overseen by an advisory committee consisting of representatives from the CTSI, EBRC, BUSM, and BUSPH.
Overview

• The center is ultimately intended to facilitate studies of association between biomic and phenotypic characteristics in humans, and studies of comparative effectiveness along the spectrum of T3 to T4 translational research.
Questions

• Is such a Center something you would use?

• What kinds of databases you would want the center to host?

• What other kinds of functions you would want the center to perform?

• E-mail vasan@bu.edu with any comments / questions