



# The Clinical Research Center

## *Spotlight on Science ~ Behavioral Science Core*

The CRC has partnered with the Department of Psychiatry's Program for Behavioral Science to create a **Behavioral Science Core (BSC)**. The BSC provides *consultation* services for the preparation of grants, protocols and clinical trials with behavioral, psychological, psychiatric, or neuropsychological involvement as well as *psychometrician* services.

We interviewed **Dr. Katrina Boyer**, a neuropsychologist in the Department of Neurology, about her experiences with the BSC.

### *How have you used the BSC?*

My research projects are small in terms of subject volume. Before the BSC, I was paying 50% of an RA's time. When accrual slowed down, we had reduced need for an RA. We switched to using the BSC for "a la carte" neuropsychology testing, only paying for the time needed to test subjects. On another large multi-site project, I am using the BSC for data collection that I otherwise would have had to do myself, which would have interfered with my clinical responsibilities.



Boyer, K.

### *What benefits have you experienced using the BSC?*

If you hire an RA, you have to pay his salary no matter how many subjects walk through your door. If subject flow is slow or erratic and you do not have other RA needs, then it makes sense to pay for services a la carte. Using the BSC has fit the pace of subject testing, allowing me to stretch my funds to see more subjects over a longer period of time. Also, many multi-site trials reimburse only on a per patient basis, and for these studies the BSC is ideal.

Another major benefit is that I feel less inhibited about entertaining collaborations. I feel confident that I can collect data through the BSC while focusing my efforts on the project's scientific and clinical aspects.

### *Who could benefit from using the BSC?*

The ideal "customer" is an investigator who needs behavioral, psychiatric, psychological, or neuropsychological testing services but does not have a psychologist or psychometrician on staff or the resources or need for an RA. Also, the BSC offers consultation to investigators designing clinical studies with behavioral outcomes. By accessing BSC expertise when preparing grant applications and clinical research protocols, investigators can enhance the quality of their studies.

### *What has been your experience with the quality of the services the BSC offers?*

It has been very easy to incorporate the BSC into my protocols. The psychometrician is very well-trained. I would definitely recommend the BSC to my colleagues and would use it again.

***To contact the Behavioral Science Core to set up an individual or department meeting to discuss BSC services , please go to the CRC webpage and request Behavioral Science Core services or click [HERE](#)***

***Or Contact***

***Dr. Deborah Waber (deborah.waber@childrens.harvard.edu, 617-355-6523) or  
Dr. Michelle Bosquet Enlow (michelle.bosquet@childrens.harvard.edu, 617-919-4680)***

## [Clinical Research Resources for Investigators](#)

*(click on the underlined header)*

**Case Report Form Checklist:** Intended as a guide for investigators to review their forms with reminders of key elements and to avoid common mistakes. Complete with a link to a

**REDCap Database Checklist:** Helpful tips to guide the REDCap database development process. Focuses on the standards of programming rather than the basic technologies of REDCap. Recommends database layout, variable construction, naming and coding.

**Research Practice Guidelines:** Helpful guidelines on best practices ranging from “Writing a Study Protocol” to “Guidelines for REcruitment” to guide the REDCap database development process. Focuses on the standards of programming rather than the basic tech-

**Survey Resources:** Includes Common Measures and External Resources

**Health Economic Resources:** For those who plan to conduct economic evaluations of clinical interventions, health policies, and health care programs



*Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.*

**-W. Earl Hall**

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## [Harvard Catalyst Resources](#)

*(click on the underlined header)*

**HCCRC Resource Request:** For those who would like to use the CTSU at Children’s and access nursing, nutrition and lab services

**Educational Programs:** Offering dozens of short-courses and trainings

**Biostatistical Consulting:** Offering expertise and consultation on a range of relevant areas to aid in clinical research. Our own CRC staff members participate in this!

**Pilot Funding:** Pilot grant opportunities offered throughout the year on a variety of topics

**Bioinformatics Consulting:** Focuses on early stages of research project development

## Upcoming Courses...

Register Here:  
[www.childrenshospital.org/crceducation](http://www.childrenshospital.org/crceducation)

September 10, 12, & 13:  
 Introduction to Clinical Research

May 17, June 14, July 19  
 Orientation for New Study coordinators

September 24 - November 14:  
 Introduction to Biostatistics with SPSS

Coming Soon!  
 Coordinator Rounds

May 21, June 18, September 17  
 CRC Grand Rounds

December 2013  
 Art & Anatomy of Grant Writing

## One-Hour Consults, Bod Pod, Project Management/Study Coordinator Services

### CONSULTS

CRC, Research Pharmacy and Behavioral Science offers “free” one-hour consults, click [HERE](#)

### BODPOD

The machine is located on Pavilion 5 in the GPU clinic and is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. To schedule a research BODPOD appointment, please contact Nicolle Quinn, CTSU Nutrition Manager. Questions? Please email: [christopher.duggan@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:christopher.duggan@childrens.harvard.edu), [lori.bechard@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:lori.bechard@childrens.harvard.edu) or [nicolle.quinn@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:nicolle.quinn@childrens.harvard.edu)

### CATALYST-SUBSIDIZED SERVICES—Click [HERE](#) to Apply

Subsidized hours for Junior Investigators (Assist. Prof. and below) are now available; guidelines below\*:

1. Project Management Services (a mix of RN project manager, non-RN project manager, data manager and study coordinator)
2. Study Coordinator Hours Only

## New Staff

Jackson Norton, *Clinical Research Coordinator*

Brenda Mackinnon, *CR Nurse Project Manager*

Gloria Faboyede, *Clinical Research Coordinator*

Bridget Koryak, *CTSU Program Manager*

Hana Gragg, *Clinical Trial Manager*

## Congratulations!



*To Emily Blood, PhD, who was recently promoted to Assistant Professor of Pediatrics*

*To Nicolle Quinn, MS, RD, LDN, whose poster won the “Clinical Research Poster Award” at the Progeria Scientific conference last week.*



## Chiefs' Corner

Dear Colleagues,

The warm weather has finally arrived and summer will be here before we know it. We continue to be grateful for all of the hard work our staff do, as well as, the continued collaboration that we have with all of you...we wouldn't be here without your support! We have high hopes that the Harvard Catalyst grant will be renewed as we offer subsidized study coordinator and project management hours for junior investigators. We should know by mid-Summer of next steps.

~ Ellis and Voula



**The Clinical Research Center, Questions or Feedback?  
 Contact [CRC@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:CRC@childrens.harvard.edu)**