

**Research and Statistical Support Service
Animal Population Health Institute
Department of Clinical Sciences**

The Animal Population Health Institute and the Department of Clinical Sciences have collaborated to develop a research consultation service for study design and data analysis. Priority is given to graduate students and Principal Investigators from the Department of Clinical Sciences; services will be provided by appointment on a first-come basis within time limitations described below. Service will be available to other investigators as time allows. Please contact Dr. Sangeeta Rao for more information <sangeeta.rao@colostate.edu>.

Examples of available consultation services:

- General study design
- Sampling methodologies
- Power calculations
- Analysis recommendations
- Wording of analytical methods sections for grant applications
- Recommendations for data entry tools
- Basic and advanced statistical analysis
- Interpretation of statistical analysis
- Wording and data presentation for reports

Other details:

- Primary contact person for the Statistics and Research support service is Dr. Sangeeta Rao, a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Clinical Sciences Department, working under the supervision of APHI faculty (primarily Drs. Morley and Hill).
- A total of 20 hrs per week are available for consultation with PI's and graduate students from the Clinical Sciences Department. As such, it is very important to allow adequate time in advance of deadlines for scheduling of appointments. This total time allotment could be adjustable to a higher level depending on other time commitments and available funding.
- Appointments will be generally available from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Wednesday. Contact Dr. Sangeeta Rao by email to schedule an appointment <sangeeta.rao@colostate.edu>. Please note that it should not be assumed that statistical analyses will be conducted at the last minute or outside of business hours as an "emergency".
- Prior to initial meetings, investigators should complete a Research Consultation Form describing their project and the assistance that they are requesting, and email this to Dr. Rao. This form is available online at www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/clinsci/rsss.htm
- For projects involving graduate students, both the student and the advisor/PI should plan to attend the initial meeting.
- Education about research and the analytical process is a key objective for providing these services when projects involve graduate students. Students will be included as much as possible in all phases of the analytical process, even if analyses are complicated and this participation is more observational versus active in nature. This service is not intended to replace formal training in this important area of research. As such, graduate students are expected to take classes that are sufficient to understand and perform their analysis even when APHI personnel will be assisting

with these activities. The Post-Doc and APhi faculty will work with faculty advisors to help ensure that their expectations are met regarding an appropriate level of support for activities involving graduate students.

- Services will be available free of charge for investigators that do not have financial support for statistical analysis. However, the intent is for this service to become self-funded over time. As such, funded projects will be asked to provide support at a rate of \$100 per hour for service provided to PI's and graduate students from the Department of Clinical Sciences. Service to other investigators will be provided at a rate of \$200 per hour.
- Investigators are encouraged to seek consultation during study planning to help ensure that analytical considerations have been appropriately considered prior to initiating projects.
- Investigators will be responsible for data entry and validation, but the Post-Doctoral Fellow and APhi faculty will be available to provide recommendations for database configuration, coding, and formatting variables. Data should generally be provided in MS Excel spreadsheets, MS Access databases, or delimited text files unless other arrangements are made.
- Statistical analyses will generally be performed in SAS, Stata, SPSS, or StatTools. Other specialized programs will be used as deemed necessary by APhi personnel. Assistance with methods and coding in these programs are available as part of this service. Unfortunately, because it is not possible to be experts with all software, APhi personnel can provide general methodological recommendations for other statistical analysis software but it will not be possible to provide IT support for other statistical packages.
- When a research project requires highly specialized analyses that fall outside the expertise of APhi personnel, the Post-Doctoral Fellow and APhi faculty will work with investigators to identify other consultants that may be available to provide analytical support.
- The Post-Doctoral Fellow and APhi faculty will always assist with interpreting and summarizing statistical analyses. When requested, personnel will also assist with preparation of written descriptions of the analytical process, results, and interpretation for inclusion in published reports and manuscripts.
- Consistent with editorial policies of scientific journals, it is assumed that personnel providing significant contributions to research projects through planning and conduct of statistical analyses will be appropriately acknowledged on written reports and manuscripts. In general, if personnel provide significant contributions to the research effort it is assumed that investigators will discuss potential inclusion as authors.