Associate Professor of Biostatistics
Lindsay D'Amato

"I enjoy multidisciplinary collaborative work and the opportunity to learn from a wide variety of scientists with different perspectives."

Bio

Lindsay's lifelong interest in improving people's health and happiness led her to the field of biostatistics for her PhD. Working her way up from a junior statistician position in which she cleaned datasets and performed simple analyses, she is now a direct collaborator with PIs on dozens of grant-funded projects each year. She advises researchers on the appropriate statistical approaches for analysis and plays a key role in study design. Many of Lindsay's projects are multi-center studies, requiring her to travel frequently. She provides mentorship to junior faculty in every stage of the research process, from study design to analysis. Lindsay also advises and mentors Master's level biostatisticians in her department, helping them along their path of professional development and promotion. Lindsay is grateful for the support of research administration staff and her colleagues in the grant office, who support her project work and assist her as she contributes to grant applications. One challenge Lindsay faces is the lack of an NIH study section to submit to for transdisciplinary grants.
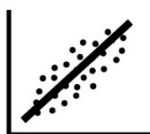
Education: BS, Mathematics; MS, Statistics; PhD, Biostatistics
Years of experience: 10
Work location: Have laptop, will travel

Goals

- To foster a biostatistics department for team science, to leverage complementary statistical expertise
- Clear communication with PIs about expectations
- To gain skills in new statistical programs and methods

Software attitude & use

- Open to new tools
- When research and collaboration tools aren't working, she experiences delays
- Statistical software: SAS, Stata, PASS, R
- Research and collaboration: REDCap, EndNote, Box, Trello, Github, Slack, video conferencing software
- General: Microsoft Office Suite

Scholarly Outputs

- Articles/manuscripts
- Conference presentations & posters
- Class lectures and materials
- Reviews of others' manuscripts
- Grant application contributor

Pain Points

- Harmonizing data from many different sources requires complicated behind-the-scenes biostatistics solutions
- Working on too many grants at low % effort leads to distraction, lower commitment, and less satisfaction

Motivators

To get funded grants, thereby confirming viable research analysis design

To receive recognition for vital role biostatisticians play on statistical analyses in research

To report accurate and impactful results

To do accountable, reproducible science that ensures the safety and security of patient data

Wants/Needs

- Formal recognition for collaboration, leadership, and mentorship on team projects
- More time to achieve her goals
- Institutional support for a biostatistics collaboration unit
- A way to track metrics on consulting and collaboration efforts to document productivity
- Clear methodology or algorithm for prioritizing requests

Professional Development

Department supports travel to conferences and workshops, and purchasing informational resources

Mentors Master's level biostatisticians

Department encourages biostatisticians to pursue their PhDs

Wants to pursue a professional statistical certification (PStat) from the American Statistical Association