

A Tale of Two Cores: Biostatistics in Aging at JHU

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I have ?? years of experience

- **Depends on how you count!**
- **First Biostat Core:**
 - P01 on Vision/Aging, 1991
- **NIH “Center” Cores**
 - OAIC, 2003-present
 - ADRC, 2004-present
- **Center on Aging & Health (COAH)**
 - 1994? 1998? 2001?



A Tale of Two Centers

COAH/OAIC

■ COAH Vision:

... be the world leader in **discovery** to optimize the health and quality of life of the older population; and, to see our discoveries **pay off** as added years of health life for older adults, and thereby, **position the University for leadership** in transitioning to an aging society.

■ Research, education, translation

A Tale of Two Centers

COAH/OAIC

- 12 interdisciplinary faculty: 4 statisticians!
- 6 support staff; many research staff
 - 4 ScM statisticians; 2 data managers
- Student training program
- Embedded within Geriatrics; SOM, SON, SPH
- Funding: NIH, foundations, philanthropy
 - Research studies
 - OAIC
 - Leadership, Research Cores (2), Pilot Core, Career Development
 - Biostatistics: 0.35 Ph.D. FTE; 1 Sc.M. FTE; 0.40 data man. FTE

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COAH/OAIC

- Aims—to provide / develop
 - Data management and analytic support
 - Data and analytic infrastructure
 - New statistical methods
 - Mentorship of junior faculty: access / training
 - Collaboration: other cores, extra-OAIC
 - Attract new collaborators
 - Website
 - Translation
 - Leadership

A Tale of Two Centers

COAH/OAIC

■ What works

- Center leader with a ton of **vision** (former ☺)
- **Interdisciplinarity** not just a buzzword
- Statistics **at the table**
- An awesome **deputy**: **Qian-Li Xue**
- **Tracking-as-you-go** procedures
- **Methods** built-in
- Critical **mass**

A Tale of Two Centers

COAH/OAIC

- What doesn't work
 - Project leaders who miss benchmarks
 - The funding
 - Senior time

- What ???
 - Most primary appointments in Center home (not Biostatistics)

A Tale of Two Centers

ADRC

- What works
 - Great scientists
- What doesn't work
 - New collaboration culture
 - Statistics not actively sought
 - Insufficient critical mass (Core)
 - Insufficient initiative on our (statisticians') part
 - Insufficient mutual vision

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One burning question:

How integrated should
Biostatistics Cores be within
academic departments of
Biostatistics?

- Funding issues?
- Culture issues?
- Opportunity issues?

