Texas Tech Health El Paso
Faculty Development



Faculty Development **Insider**

Empowering Excellence in Academic Medicine

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Zuber D. Mulla, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Executive Director's Message

Dear Colleagues,

This fall, the Office of Faculty Development (OFD) is excited to host the 25th annual offering of the Institutional Faculty Development Program (IFDP XXV). The IFDP XXV promises something for everyone - sessions on artificial intelligence, research, leadership and more. I hope to see you in our upcoming sessions.

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INSTITUTIONAL FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (IFDP) XXV

The Office of Faculty Development (OFD) continues to accept applications for the Institutional Faculty Development Program (IFDP XXV), which began on October 13, 2026, and will continue through May 2027. The program is open to all Texas Tech Health El Paso faculty members, including non-salaried faculty. We encourage you to share this opportunity with newly recruited early-and mid-career faculty and to consider participating if you have not previously enrolled.

IFDP XXV combines weekly Zoom or in-person sessions with asynchronous Canvas learning, offering flexible access to professional development. Eligible sessions may offer continuing medical education credits in medicine, nursing and dentistry.

The program content focuses on teaching, scholarship and research, professionalism, and leadership/career advancement. Participants also benefit from individualized support and networking opportunities with senior faculty and IFDP alums, helping build a strong professional network across campus.

Correction from a Prior Issue

An error appeared in **Vol. 1, No. 3 (2025)** regarding Dr. Atasi Chatterjee's title. The correct title is **Associate Professor**. We regret the error and appreciate Dr. Chatterjee's valued contributions to our university community.

FACULTY TIPS CORNER

Scholarship Using Large Health Datasets – Part 2: National Datasets

By Zuber D. Mulla, Ph.D.

*Editorial note: This is the second article of a two-part series. The first article addresses selected Texas statewide datasets and appears in the **Vol. 2, No. 3, 2026 OFD newsletter**.*

Faculty trained in epidemiology and biostatistics, or those collaborating with experts in these fields, may be interested in analyzing large health datasets and publishing their results in peer-reviewed journals. Three popular, publicly available large health datasets from the United States government are described below.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The BRFSS is our country's system of telephone surveys that record information about chronic health conditions, health-related risk behaviors, and access to preventive services.[1] It was created in 1984.[1] To learn more and download datasets, visit the **BRFSS website via this hyperlink**.

Scholars who want to analyze BRFSS records should be familiar with the proper methods for handling data from complex survey samples. For example, if you wish to perform complex sampling analyses of the core-only section of the 2025 BRFSS, then you will need to incorporate the proper weight, cluster (primary sampling unit), and stratification variables in your data analysis.[2] For SAS and R users, examples of code that are needed to estimate means and percentages from the 2025 BRFSS are found in an online module published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (see reference 2 cited below).

National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)

The CDC's National Center for Health Statistics conducts the NSFG.[3] The NSFG started in 1973, and it captures data on a variety of topics and outcomes, including births, pregnancies, reproductive health and contraception.[3] The NSFG is not a simple random sample of the population.[4] Instead, "…the NSFG is a multi-stage probability-based, nationally representative sample of the household population aged 15-49…"[4] Therefore, faculty who would like to analyze data from the NSFG should be familiar with methods needed to account for the complex sample design of the NSFG. This includes using the appropriate cluster, weight and stratification variables.

In June of 2026, several individuals at Texas Tech Health El Paso published the following paper in the peer-reviewed *Southern Medical Journal*: **Joint Effect of Paternal and Maternal Age on the Prevalence of Low Birth Weight in the United States**. *South Med J* 2026 Jun 2;119(6):294-298. PMID: 4222549. The article summarizes the results of an analysis of the female pregnancy file of the NSFG 2017-2019. I served as the corresponding author of this paper and would be happy to answer any questions about our experience with this dataset.

For more information on the NSFG and to download datasets, please visit the **National Survey of Family Growth website**.

FACULTY TIPS CORNER

Quick Tip.

Account for complex survey design

- When analyzing BRFSS, NSFG, or NHANES data, always use the appropriate survey weights, clusters, and stratification variables to obtain valid estimates.

Quick Tip

Leverage publicly available datasets

- BRFSS, NSFG, and NHANES offer rich opportunities for scholarly work and publication across a wide range of clinical and public health topics.

Quick Tip

Avoid deleting subgroup records

- For analyses focused on specific populations (e.g., women only), use domain (subpopulation) analysis rather than removing records to preserve the survey design and ensure accurate variance estimates.

Scholarship Using Large Health Datasets – Part 2: National Datasets

(Continued)

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

NHANES is an impressive national health survey. It records information from adults and children on laboratory tests, health exams and diet.[5] NHANES is a complex sample survey, and hence, appropriate statistical procedures are needed to generate approximately unbiased variance estimates.[6] Faculty members who would like to combine NHANES cycles to increase the sample size may need to construct sample weights.[7]

A warning about subgroup analyses in the setting of a complex survey sample

When analyzing data from a study that used a complex survey sample design, such as the three that are described above, do not delete records that are not of interest to you. Deleting records could destroy the basic sample design.[8] For example, assume you want to analyze data from a complex survey that contains records for women and men. You are only interested in performing analyses on the subgroup of women. Do not delete the records of men. Instead, perform a domain analysis to avoid arriving at results with erroneous variance estimates.[9] The reader is directed elsewhere for information on domain analyses.[9, 10]

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me: E-mail: zuber.mulla@ttep.edu.
Phone: 915.215.5075.

Scholarship Using Large Health Datasets – Part 2: National Datasets

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LIBRARIAN'S FACULTY TIPS CORNER

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

By: Lisa Beinhoff, Ph.D., MLS, AHIP, Managing Director
Texas Tech Health El Paso Libraries

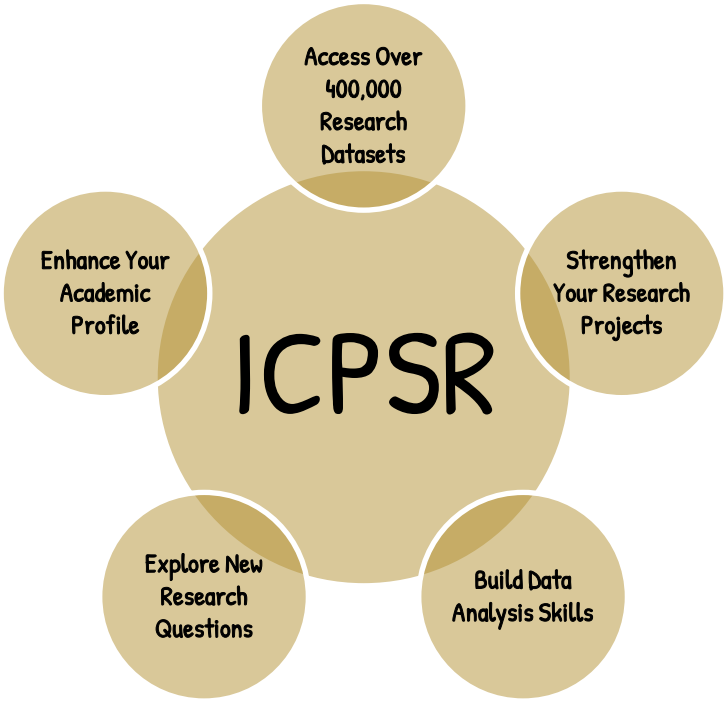
The libraries now have an institutional subscription to **ICPSR** – Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.

Access the ICPSR website

ICPSR is a great source of datasets for secondary analysis. It has served as a data repository since 1962 and contains 400,000+ research files. It includes data about the social and behavioral dimensions of human lives (both antecedents and consequences). Data sets in this archive cover topics such as substance/drug use, HIV, health, disability, rehabilitation studies, mother and child health, health disparities, data from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), U.S. Census data and aging.

- Download real data, which can be used to create: SARP projects, class projects, scholarly articles, etc.
- Take free tutorials and workshops
- Use large-scale data to explore research questions
- Connect to the global research community
- Boost your resume with hands-on experience in data analysis

Note: Some datasets will require IRB approval before you can access them and conduct a secondary analysis.



Need Help?
Contact the Librarians

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



BUILDING CONNECTIONS AT THE OFD COFFEE HOUR

On Aug. 21, the Office of Faculty Development (OFD) hosted an informational Coffee Hour at the Medical Science Building MSB II. Faculty had the opportunity to connect with OFD team members, learn about upcoming faculty development programs and resources, and engage in meaningful conversations with colleagues across the institution. We thank everyone who joined us and look forward to seeing you at future OFD events.





Faculty gather for the OFD Coffee Hour

BROWSE OUR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SITE

Faculty Development Workshops

Faculty Development Resources

Contact the Faculty Development Team!

Texas Tech Health El Paso
Faculty Development

Contact Us

130 Rick Francis St. | MSC 21007
El Paso, TX 79905
O: 915-215-6480

Email: The Office of Faculty Development, or visit the Office of Faculty Development website

Do you have a professional development tip that you would like to share with your colleagues? If so, send it to us, and we will feature it in the Office of Faculty Development newsletter. Email your tip(s) to:

The Office of Faculty Development

with the subject line *Faculty Tips*.