

A Multi-Informant Evaluation of the Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) Program within the Georgia CTSA

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Background

The Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) program is a core component of the Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA), providing shared methodological expertise to investigators across Emory University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Georgia.

BERD Services

- Investigator consultations
- Pilot and conference grants
- Annual BERD Forum

Evaluation Purpose

This multi-informant evaluation assessed BERD resource effectiveness, satisfaction, and opportunities for program improvement.

Methods

- Time Frame: January 2024 - January 2025
- Tracking System: (Request & Program Information Database)
- Consultations: 62 Tracked
- Surveys: investigators, consultants and BERD 2025 Forum Attendees
- Responses:
 - Investigator Consultees: 26 (42%)
 - Consultants: 34 (55%)
- BERD Forum (2025): 48 Attendees, 18 Survey Responses

Consultation Impact

Investigator Impact

95%

Likely or Somewhat Likely to Recommend BERD Services

88%

Extremely or Somewhat Satisfied

48%

Sought Consultation For Grant Application

BERD Consultant Impact

66%

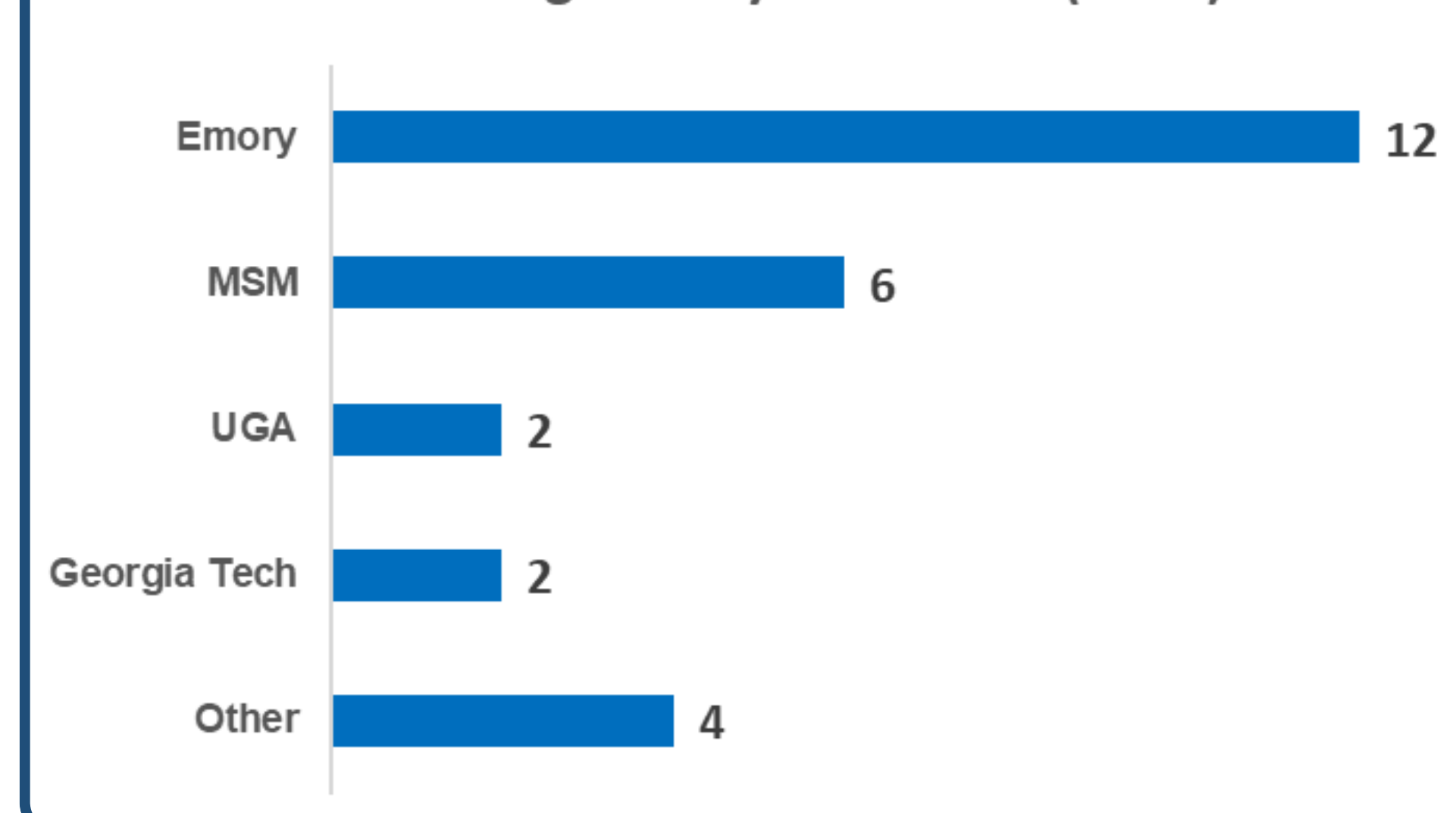
Sustained Engagement Required >1 Consultation

65%

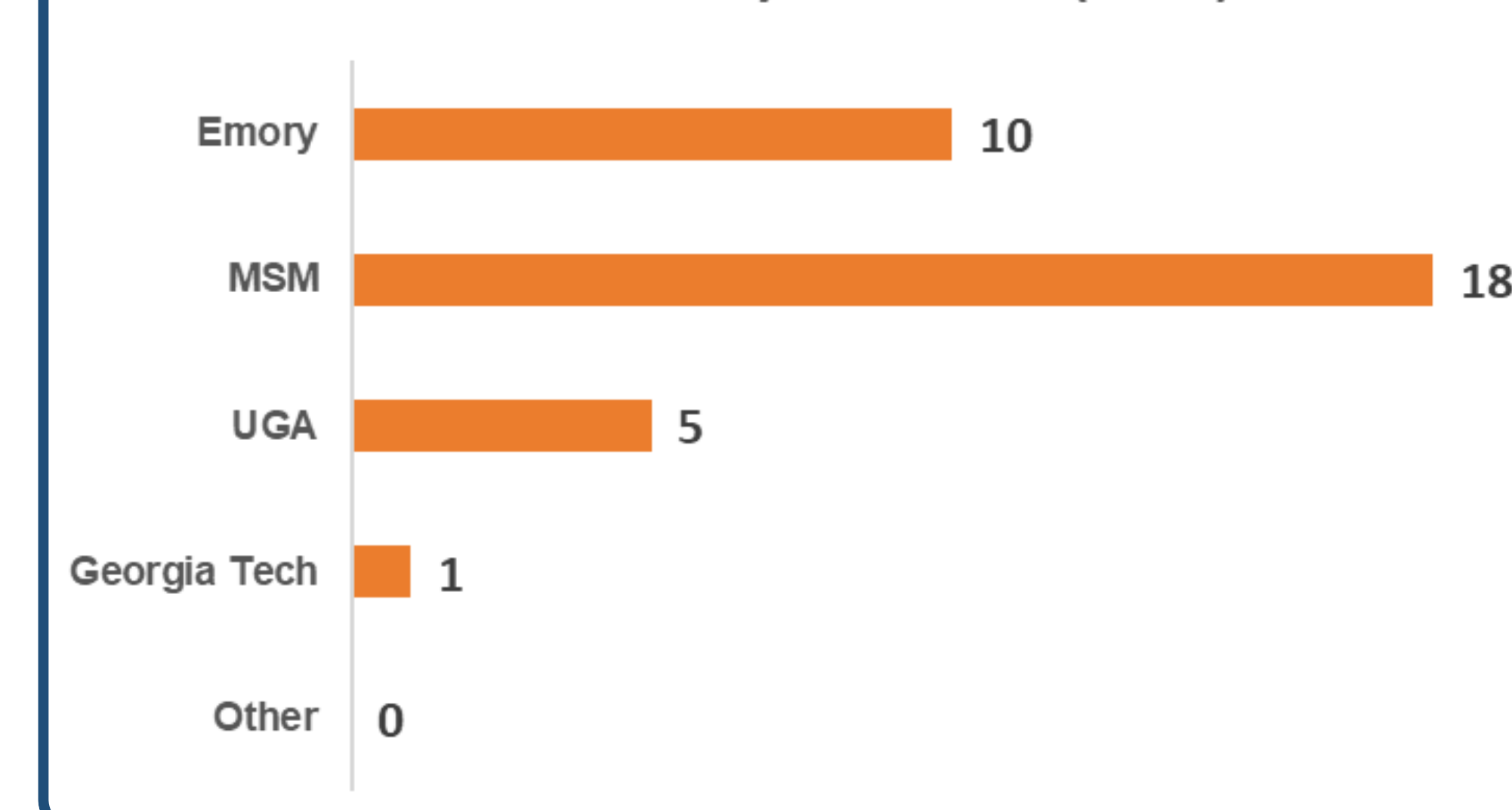
Further Help Needed After First Consultation

Institutional Distribution of Survey Respondents

Investigators By Institution (n=26)



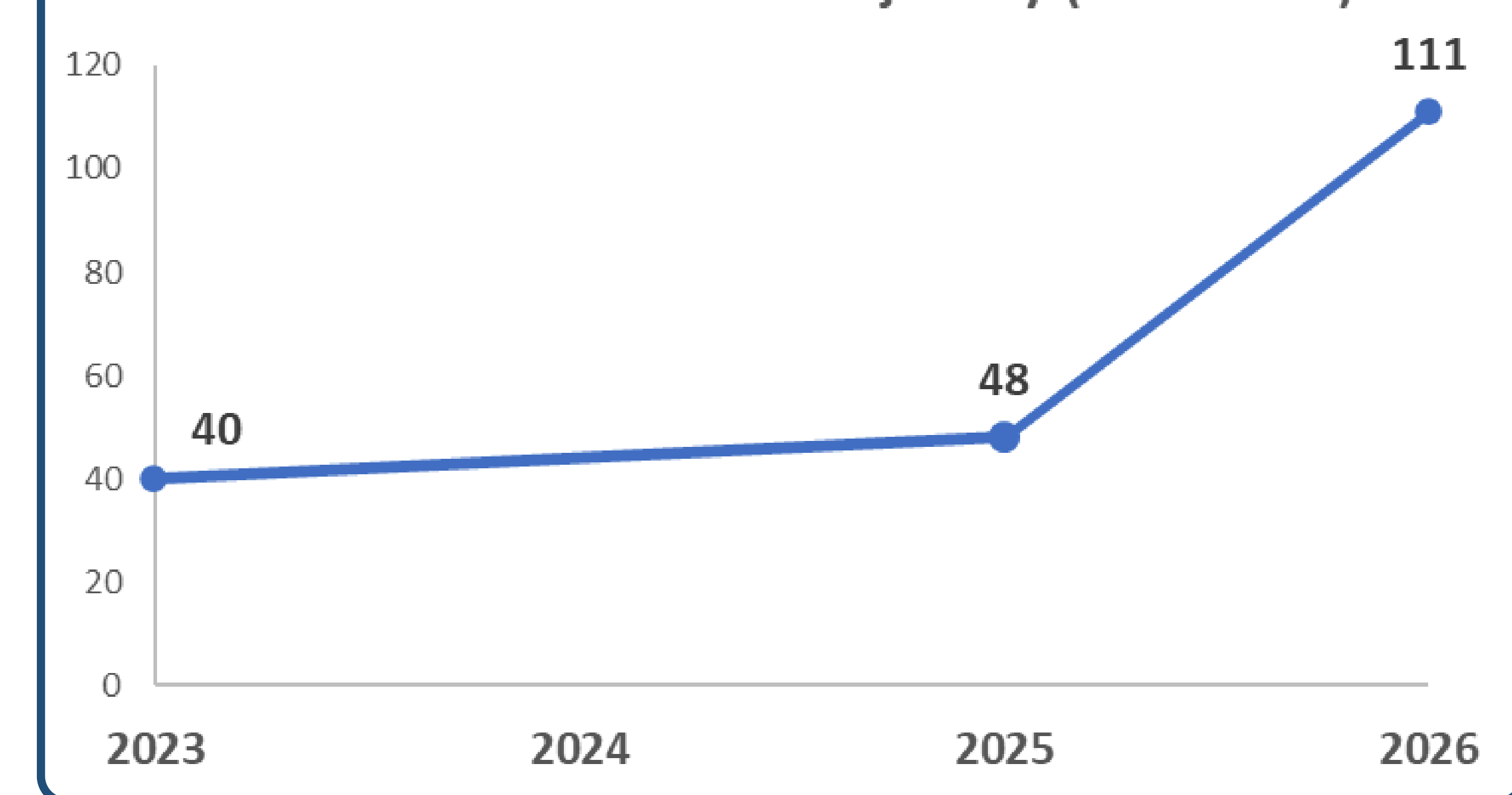
Consultants by Institution (n=34)



BERD Forum Growth & Program Impact

The BERD Forum promotes cross-institution collaboration, methodological exchange, and research development across the Georgia CTSA network.

BERD Forum Attendance Trajectory (2023-2026)



No forum held in 2024

2025 BERD Forum - "Advances in Health Beyond the Individual"

- Mean rating: 4.39 / 5
- 83% rated 4 or higher
- 89% found event useful for collaboration
- "I met several biostatisticians across Emory and made meaningful new connections."

Recommendations

- Formalize multi-session consultation pathways to support sustained project engagement.
- Implement structured post-consult follow-up assessments to address evolving analytic needs.
- Expand BERD Forum capacity and programming to support growing cross-institution collaboration.