Electronic Signature Feature Added to IRB Submit

A new feature has been added to IRB Submit, the online tool for uploading required documents for IRB review to the Office of Responsible Research Practices (ORRP). All required signatures are now obtained electronically; therefore scanning of hard copy signatures is no longer necessary. The system now sends an email notification to all individuals whose signatures are required when an IRB protocol or exempt application is submitted. By clicking on the link within the email, all required signatories are directed to log in (using their Ohio State username and password) and review and “sign” the submission electronically. Instructions for IRB Submit are available on the ORRP website at [http://orrp.osu.edu/irbforms/irb-electronic-submission-instructions/](http://orrp.osu.edu/irbforms/irb-electronic-submission-instructions/).

Updates to IRB Applications

The Ohio State University Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Exempt application forms have been updated to support the new electronic signature feature in IRB Submit as well as to clarify and improve information exchange between investigators and the IRBs. A summary of the revisions is available on the ORRP website at [http://orrp.osu.edu/2014/03/24/updates-to-irb-applications-3/](http://orrp.osu.edu/2014/03/24/updates-to-irb-applications-3/).

Revised Standards for New Research Involving Data or Specimens

The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) policy, “Research Involving Data and/or Biological Specimens” ([http://orrp.osu.edu/files/2012/02/Research-Involving-Data-andor-Specimens.pdf](http://orrp.osu.edu/files/2012/02/Research-Involving-Data-andor-Specimens.pdf)) has been revised to reflect national standards for banking and future use of data and specimens. Additionally, new investigator guidelines ([http://orrp.osu.edu/files/2011/10/Guidelines-for-Writing-a-Banking-Protocol.pdf](http://orrp.osu.edu/files/2011/10/Guidelines-for-Writing-a-Banking-Protocol.pdf)) were developed to help investigators meet these standards for human research projects involving data or specimens. The revised standards have been applied to new protocols submitted on or after March 31, 2014. Approved research studies will be required to meet the revised standards at a future continuing review. Contact Ellen Patricia at patricia.1@osu.edu or 614-688-5556 with questions regarding the revised policy or the investigator guidelines.
PRIM&R Regional Meeting – September 2014

The Ohio State University will co-host a Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) Regional Meeting in September 2014 at the Ohio Union. Educational programs specific to human subjects research include IRB 101 and IRB Administrator 101. IRB 101 provides a fundamental introduction to the field of human subjects research and will include lectures, interactive discussions, and case studies. IRB Administrator 101 provides an overview of institutional review board operations and will include information on the key components of human research protection programs, the primary responsibilities of administrators, and a review of strategies and policies for developing and/or strengthening an institution’s HRPP.

Early bird registration rates are available through June 20, 2014, with registration closing on September 5th. Visit the PRIM&R website at www.primr.org/subpage.aspx?id=5589 for additional information and registration details.

ORRP Staffing Updates

Jenna Mowls-Hutkowski joined the ORRP team as an IRB Protocol Analyst in September 2013. Jenna is responsible for assisting researchers with submissions and supporting the operations of the Biomedical Sciences IRB. Jenna earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from The Ohio State University.

Kristen Kalina was promoted to Senior IRB Protocol Analyst in January 2014. Kristen assists researchers with submissions, participates in educational outreach efforts, and supports the operations of the Cancer IRB. Kristen is a Certified IRB Professional, a national designation affirming her regulatory expertise in the field of human research protections. Kristen earned her Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology and her Master of Arts in Workforce Development and Education from The Ohio State University.

IRB Protocol Analysts, Tish Denlinger and Paul Montesanti, recently received their Certified IRB Professional (CIP) credentials. The CIP credential promotes ethical research by ensuring that professionals charged with its administration have demonstrated an advanced level of knowledge, understanding, and experience. The certification program was created in 1999 and is overseen by Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research.