Food for Thought

“We must strike a better balance between protecting participants involved in research and not unduly or inappropriately obstructing the progress of research that will bring important health benefits.”

— Sir Mark Walport, Director of the Wellcome Trust, in response to the UK’s Academy of Medical Sciences’ 2011 publication “A new pathway for the regulation and governance of health research.”

Source: www.acmedsci.ac.uk

What’s new at the ORP?

Congratulations to Debra Thurley, on receiving the ACOR Outstanding Service Award, presented for demonstrating “outstanding service to ACOR in support of research administration at Penn State.”

Congratulations to the combined ORP-ORIS CATS Project Team, on receiving the ACOR Innovation Award, for work which “through innovation advanced the field of research administration or improved a specific process at Penn State that led to increased efficiencies in the administration of research.”

Back row, L to R: Ming Ni, Debra Thurley, Laura Young, April Ripka
Front row: Danielle Fasick, Misha Kononov, Jim Taylor

Message from the ORP Director

It may seem as if our office’s dual goals – to support research and researchers, and to make sure that research follows the applicable regulations – are contradictory. However, research guidelines and regulations are a necessity, ensuring that research is performed responsibly (so that it can continue) and that projects can be funded. Our office is here to help Penn State personnel navigate the administrative and regulatory paths necessary for research to proceed.

An important way that ORP is working to meet these goals is by streamlining regulatory and reporting requirements. At Penn State, our CATS project team has been implementing a more efficient system for managing human subjects research (see the CATS box in this issue for an update). On a more global scale, the ORP is participating in initiatives to reduce the regulatory burden on researchers and their institutions. In 2011, the UK’s Academy of Medical Sciences published “A new pathway for the regulation and governance of health research,” to address concerns that “research activities are being seriously undermined by an overly complex regulatory and governance environment.” Similar efforts in the United States include the National Science Board’s 2014 report “Reducing Investigator’s Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research” (www.aau.edu), and the 2011 Issues in Science and Technology paper “Reforming Regulation of Research Universities” (issues.org).

In April 2014 the American Association of Universities met to create a strategy to eliminate unnecessary regulatory and reporting requirements affecting research universities. In response to the AAU’s request for contributions to this discussion, the ORP compiled input from numerous Penn State offices on requirements that were redundant or burdensome, as well as recommendations for comprehensive reforms. We hope that change is on the horizon, and the ORP will play a key role in moving research forward.

~Candy

Candice Yekel, Director, Office for Research Protections

To report concerns about research or scholarship at Penn State: Contact the Office for Research Protections (814) 865-1775; fax (814) 863-8699; email: ORProtects@psu.edu; or call the Penn State Ethics and Compliance Hotline at 1-800-560-1637.
CATS IRB is now live university-wide:
New information sessions and training available

CATS IRB, the new system for human subjects research applications, has replaced PRAMS and is live for the entire University as of July 10. All new IRB submissions must be submitted through CATS. Information about the conversion of existing studies from PRAMS to CATS can be found on the CATS IRB Home page at irb.psu.edu. Multiple informational and training opportunities are available in CATS, via the “Training” link.

Researchers who are new to Penn State or who have not yet taken CITI training will need to request access to CATS. To request access, contact the IRB Offices as follows:

- Researchers at Penn State Hershey, contact irb-hspo@psu.edu
- All other Penn State researchers, contact irb-orp@psu.edu

For more information, please contact irbadmin@psu.edu

Conflict of Interest Program Updates

The Conflict of Interest Program website contains useful links, please check them out!

- For relevant news stories, see COI in the Media
- If you are starting a company related to your Penn State research, see the Quick Reference Guide for Entrepreneurs for help with administrative requirements.

These links (and others) can be found at www.research.psu.edu/orp/coi/individual-coi/

Contact the Office for Research Protections
814-865-1775 www.research.psu.edu/orp
Candy Yekel, Director Sharon Shriver, aegis editor cay3@psu.edu sps10@psu.edu

Penn State
The Miracle
Paul McKel lips – Executive Vice President at the Foundation for Biomedical Research Wednesday, October 29 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ASI Auditorium Thursday, October 30 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson)

FDA
Please contact ORP Protections@psu.edu for information about conducting human participant research (using drugs, devices, or supplements, for example) that could be regulated by the FDA.

Keep an eye out for the 2014 ORP Client Satisfaction Survey! The results of previous surveys can be found at www.research.psu.edu/orp

Fall 2014 Educational Workshops
12 – 1 PM Bring your lunch!
See the entire schedule at http://www.research.psu.edu/training

Scholarship and Research Ethics Brownbag Series

“Alternative approaches for understanding human uses of natural resources: The need for transdisciplinary collaboration”
A.E. Luloff - Professor, Rural Sociology and HDNRE
Thursday, October 16 Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson)

“Animal rights activism & security concerns”
Ty rone Parham - Director, University Police
Wednesday, October 22 Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson)

“Development of a left ventricular assist device and its transition to the medical device industry”
Robert Kunz – Senior Scientist, ARL; Professor, Aerospace Engineering
Thursday, November 13 Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson)

“The challenge of communicating science to the public without over stating research findings: Does hype win out over substance?”
Todd Lal eunesse - Associate Professor, Biology
Thursday, November 20 Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson)

IRB 101 Brownbag Series

“Interpretive qualitative research in schools: Potentials and pitfalls”
Alison Carr-Cheliman - Professor, Education
Tuesday, October 14 102 Kern Graduate Building

“Genetics and evolutionary ecology research with Batwa human rainforest hunter-gatherers”
George Perry - Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Biology
Tuesday, October 28 102 Kern Graduate Building