Food for Thought

“The questions of the students are often the source of new research. They often ask profound questions that I’ve thought about at times and then given up on…”


What’s new at the ORP?

Please join us in congratulating Candy Yekel, Director of the Office for Research Protections and Penn State’s Research Integrity Officer, on her promotion to Associate Vice President for Research. Candy began her career in ORP in 1994 as the Research Compliance Coordinator, one of four staff members. In 1997 she became director, and since that time, the ORP has grown exponentially in response to expanding regulatory requirements. Candy now oversees a staff of 44 individuals, who work to ensure protection of human subjects, animals, and the institution.

The Institutional Review Board, the Animal, Biosafety and Isotope programs, Individual and Institutional Conflict of Interest programs, Educational programs for the Responsible Conduct of Research, the RA10 Research Misconduct program, the Science Diving program and Research Information Systems all report to Candy. All of us at ORP are delighted that Candy’s accomplishments have been recognized and we hope you will join us in congratulating her on this well-deserved promotion.

Please welcome Justin Snyder, Ph.D. who joined the ORP in January as Quality Management (QM) Coordinator. Justin will be involved in all aspects of QM Program activities, including post-approval review visits and acting as a resource to investigators, IRB staff and IRB members for FDA-regulated studies at all campuses and colleges except for the College of Medicine.

Our office is dynamic and growing!

To see our organizational structure, and put a face to the name you see in your email, check out www.research.psu.edu/offices/orp.

Revamped CATS IRB Sessions Available In-Person or via Adobe Connect

The CATS IRB Overview sessions have been revamped! Sessions have been shortened to accommodate researcher schedules and discuss the components of a new IRB submission in the CATS system. Don’t have time to leave the office? Attend a one-hour session via Adobe Connect—you’ll learn how to navigate the system and its new features. In-person workshops are now an hour and a half and include a hands-on demonstration of how to create a new IRB submission in CATS. All Penn State faculty, staff, and students are welcome.

For more information or to sign up for trainings, please visit the CATS IRB Training page: www.research.psu.edu/orp/humans/cats-centralized-application-tracking-system-1.

Interested in a personalized training for your class or lab? Contact Katie Bode-Lang at kfb119@psu.edu.

To report concerns about research or scholarship at Penn State: Contact the Office for Research Protections (814) 865-1775; fax (814) 863-8699; email: ORProtections@psu.edu; or call the Penn State Ethics and Compliance Hotline at 1-800-560-1637.
January’s Scoundrels
Acting as a peer reviewer can be a frustrating experience, as evidenced by collections of choice comments made by reviewers of articles submitted to the journal Environmental Microbiology.

“The writing and data presentation are so bad that I had to leave work and go home early and then spend time to wonder what life is about.”

Not all negative comments lead to rejection of the paper:

“I nearly said reject. But then I recalled that I have a hangover and I am feeling grumpy.”

And our favorite:

“I felt like I was teaching my grandmother to suck eggs. Accept with minor revision.”


Spring 2014 Educational Workshops
www.research.psu.edu/training

Scholarship and Research Ethics Brownbag Series
12 PM – 1 PM, The Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson)
Bring your lunch; cookies and drinks provided! No pre-registration necessary, but come early as seminars fill up quickly.

Feb 5  “Zoonotic diseases and occupational health”
Jacob Werner - Assistant Professor, Veterinary Medicine and Dairy and Animal Sciences

Feb 19  “Ethical issues in big data research”
Donna Coffman - Research Associate Professor, College of Health and Human Development

Mar 26  “Who owns the past? Archaeology, heritage, and politics in Israel”
Ann Killebrew - Associate Professor, Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies, Jewish Studies, and Anthropology

IRB 101 Brownbag Series
12 PM – 1 PM, 102 Kern Graduate Building
Bring your lunch; cookies and drinks provided! No pre-registration necessary, but come early as seminars fill up quickly.

Jan 29  “Conducting research with pregnant women: Challenges and lessons learned”
Danielle Downs - Associate Professor, Kinesiology and Obstetrics and Gynecology

Feb 12  “Say that again? A discussion concerning self-plagiarism”
Brad Woods - Research Ethics Educator, Educational Programs, ORP
102 Kern Graduate Building            1 PM – 2:30 PM

Mar 31  “Research and science communication and the Internet”
Brad Woods - Research Ethics Educator, Educational Programs, ORP
102 Kern Graduate Building            1 PM – 2:30 PM

Survival Skills and Ethics Series*
For graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
*Pre-registration required at www.research.psu.edu/training/

Feb 18  “Presenting your scientific research”
2 PM - 5 PM     Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson)
Feb 25  “Writing articles about your scientific research”
2 PM - 5 PM     Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson)
Mar 27  “Increasing your confidence in delivering a research presentation”
1 PM - 4 PM     Bennett Pierce Living Center (110 Henderson)

Contact the Office for Research Protections
814-865-1775      www.research.psu.edu/orp
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This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its
PennState            .

*Aegis definition from Thesaurus.com