Message from the ORP Director

As a new academic year begins, I want to extend a warm welcome to new and returning members of our Penn State community! In the academic world, fall always brings a sense of beginning, of new classes and projects. Our office experiences this through the researchers we support, as well as in our own new initiatives and programs. Although “Office for Research Protections” is a cumbersome name, it’s appropriate: we protect the ability of Penn State researchers and scholars to conduct and publish their investigations without questions being raised regarding ethics, integrity, or bias. We assist researchers in obtaining necessary approvals and in maintaining compliance with applicable regulations. Sometimes this goal can only be reached through tedious steps and seeming reams of paperwork, but supporting researchers as they navigate complicated regulations and complete those necessary tasks is why we’re here.

This fall, we’ve added two new initiatives to our slate of resources. Our new Faculty Consulting program will assist personnel in meeting Penn State’s policy HR80, which addresses consulting done outside of Penn State. The policy states that “University personnel are encouraged to engage in outside activities,” but sets guidelines “to ensure that all such activities are reasonable and appropriate in light of our faculty’s abiding obligation to the University.” We’re also happy to announce that starting this fall, education and training for Penn State personnel who use animals in research will now be offered via the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative at the University of Miami (CITI). Over 30 general and species-specific courses are available through the CITI Program, and all are regularly updated and conveniently accessible online. The CITI Program interfaces directly with Penn State’s CATS system, allowing for fast and simple tracking of completed training, saving time and effort for researchers.

These are just two big changes we’ll see at ORP this fall. We are constantly implementing regular upgrades and improvements to our systems and procedures, always with a goal of fostering the ability of Penn State researchers and scholars to focus their efforts on conducting research that meets the highest standards of integrity.

~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: ORProtections@psu.edu; or call the Penn State Ethics and Compliance Hotline at 1-800-560-1637.
HHS Proposes to Improve Rules Protecting Human Research Subjects

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and fifteen other federal departments and agencies have announced proposed revisions to the regulations for protection of human subjects in research. Changes to the “Common Rule” have been proposed to ensure the highest standards of protections for human subjects in research, to enhance effectiveness of oversight, and to reduce the regulatory burden placed on institutions.

For more information, visit hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/regulations/nprmhome.html

HRPP Toolkit Update

Several updates have been made to HRPP Toolkit documents in response to feedback received from CATS IRB users. Protocol Templates have been updated, a new protocol (for research involving data analysis only) has been released, and a new policy is in effect for studies involving the use of foods and dietary supplements.

Please see the “Releases” tab on the homepage of CATS IRB (irb.psu.edu) for more information.

Fall 2015 Educational Workshops

NOTE: NEW WORKSHOP TIMES AND LOCATIONS!

Come early to get a seat.

See the entire schedule at research.psu.edu/training

Scholarship and Research Ethics Series

Animals in research: Where we were, where we are, where we are going
Jake Werner – Associate Professor, Veterinary Medicine and Dairy and Animal Sciences
Thursday, September 24 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM 101 Chambers

Unraveling the knot in a seven-rope tug of war
Peter Buckland – Postdoctoral Fellow, Sustainability Institute
Thursday, October 1 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM 101 Chambers

Communication research as human dimensions research:
Translating science for maximum social good
Lee Ahern – Associate Professor, Advertising/Public Relations
Thursday, November 19 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM 101 Chambers

IRB 101 Brownbag Series

Top 10 myths about IRB and human participants research
Tracie Kahler – Senior IRB Program Leader, The Office for Research Protections
Thursday, October 29 12 PM – 1 PM 102 Kern Graduate Bldg

Conducting research with maltreated and at-risk children: A uniquely vulnerable population
Jennie Noll – Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
Wednesday, November 11 12 PM – 1 PM 102 Kern Graduate Bldg

The perils of technologically-accessible data: A discussion of access and participant consent
Rayne Sperling – Associate Professor, Educational Psychology
Thursday, November 12 12 PM – 1 PM 102 Kern Graduate Bldg

Interviewing veterans suffering from combat trauma: Findings, ethical dilemmas, and research as social interaction
Justin Snyder – Quality Management Coordinator, Office for Research Protections
Tuesday, December 1 12 PM – 1 PM 102 Kern Graduate Bldg

Contact the Office for Research Protections

814-865-1775
research.psu.edu/orp
Candy Yekel, Director
cay3@psu.edu

814-865-1775
research.psu.edu/orp
Sharon Shriver, aegis editor
sp10@psu.edu

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ORP now has a Facebook presence and Twitter feed. We’ll keep you up to date on happenings at the office, the latest research protection news, reminders and information about research protections and ethics at Penn State, and much more.

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twitter.com/psu_orp