To the IRB Community

Dear Colleagues,

During the past three months we have taken advantage of changes in the IRB Office staffing to reexamine our processes for receiving and reviewing protocols and for communication with the research community and external constituents in our continuing quest for providing the most efficient and effective services possible. Last year the IRB Office received over 10,000 submissions of new protocols, modifications, renewals and other miscellaneous reports through the OSIRIS system. Given the required thoughtful throughput of protocols along with the weekly education and training programs, support for the IRB Committees and a wide-ranging outreach program of educational audits, the need for accurate and efficient work flows is vital.

With the able assistance of Pitt’s Office of Human Resources, the exercise has resulted in a flattened organizational structure and the elevation of four of our most senior and experienced colleagues to form a staff-driven leadership team. Dick Guido, MD, long-time IRB Chair, has agreed to take on the additional duties of directing the IRB by serving as the convener of the new IRB Office leadership team of

- Jean Barone, CIP – Director of Regulatory Affairs,
- Melissa Miklos, BS, CIP – Associate Director of Education,
- Patty Orndoff, RN, MEd, CIP – Manager of Technology and Instructional Development and
- Nick Landolina, MPM, MEd – Operations Manager.

Given her long history of interaction with the researchers in conducting psychosocial research, IRB Vice Chair Sue Beers, PhD has agreed to serve as the faculty liaison to the Provost area. In addition our excellent core of faculty vice chairs, Drs. Hsieh, Martin and Katz, are available to support the research community.

We are very fortunate to have a staff replete with the requisite expertise to lead the IRB Office during this time of a rapidly changing landscape for clinical research and the continuing pressures to do more with less. I invite you to congratulate Jean, Melissa, Patty, and Nick on their new responsibilities and to also make good use of their talents.

As always we welcome your suggestions for making the oft-tortuous, but important process of regulatory compliance easier as well as your requests for formal training for research staff or simple phone calls/emails to have a question answered.

Regards,

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