IRB Update

Institutional Review Board
The University of Texas at Austin

June 2013
Volume 3, Issue 6

Graduation and IRB Approval
*Lessons Learned*

Students conducting human subjects research are required to supply documentation of IRB approval in order to be cleared for graduation. Every semester, graduation is delayed for numerous students who failed to secure IRB approval and/or failed to retain IRB approval documentation. ORS archives study documentation for three years after study closure. For this reason, it is critical that students (and all researchers) retain IRB documentation for future use. Faculty should encourage student researchers to apply for IRB approval or to (at least) check with ORS to determine if IRB approval is needed for projects required for graduation such as master’s theses, doctoral dissertations, etc.

New Research Personnel Forms

In order to simplify IRB submissions, we have created two separate forms: 1) a personnel form for new study and continuing review applications, and 2) a personnel form for amendment applications. Please note that both forms ask for confirmation of training and submission of financial interest disclosures (FIDs). Please use these new forms located on our forms page:

http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/humansubjects/forms.html

*Reminder:* IRB staff regularly updates forms and materials. In order to expedite IRB review and approval, please do not “recycle” outdated IRB materials from previous research or “borrow” forms used in previous years from colleagues. Thank you!

IRB Guidelines on Mechanical Turk

In response to the March 2013 report on the vulnerabilities of Amazon.com’s online platform known as “Mechanical Turk,” ORS staff compiled a list of guidelines for researchers who may be interested in using this data collection tool. Please read these guidelines before submitting IRB applications and supplemental materials.

To read the March 2013 report:

http://www.utexas.edu/news/2013/03/27/amazons-online-workforce-not-so-anonymous-after-all/

IRB guidelines for using MTurk are posted on our special topics page:

http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/humansubjects/special_topics/index.html

“IRB Office Hours” available to ALL Researchers on Campus

This session provides researchers with the opportunity to ask questions about draft protocols, IRB applications, and ethical concerns about research with human participants. Bring study materials (hard copies preferred) and receive immediate feedback to IRB-related questions. This new class is offered on a monthly basis. This is a working session intended to provide one-on-one assistance with the IRB submission process. There will be NO formal presentation, as offered in RC 201, “IRB Intro.”

Sign up on TXClass:

http://links.utexas.edu/cdbzioc

The next IRB Full Board meeting is June 24, 2013.
The deadline to submit paper copies is June 7, 2013.

Please contact the Office of Research Support with any questions, comments, or concerns.
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