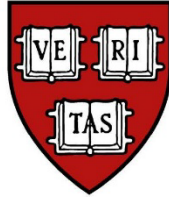


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Harvard University Area

Harvard University Area IRB Monthly Newsletter

March 2024



IRB Staff Changes

In December the Harvard University Area IRB was pleased to welcome Jonathan Girard as the Director of the Human Research Protection Program for Harvard's Allston/Cambridge campus! Jonathan stepped into the role on an interim basis in July 2023 after having served the IRB in various roles, including Assistant Director, since 2015. You may learn more about Jonathan's new role and find his contact information [here](#).

We are likewise excited to introduce our new Assistant Director, Saraf Salim! Saraf joined the HUA IRB over three years ago as an IRB Administrator, primarily working with the Psychology department. Since then, she has built strong partnerships with members of our research community as well as a reputation as a supportive, patient, and thoughtful reviewer. You may learn more about Saraf's new role and find her contact information [here](#).

This month the HUA IRB also welcomes back Katie Schaffenberger, who previously served as an IRB Administrator, and who returns as our Reliance Administrator, helping

researchers conducting collaborative research projects. We are delighted to work with Katie again! You may reach Katie here as she gets up to speed.

That Reliance Administrator role was held by Ani Heller, whose help on an interim basis for several months we have been so grateful for. We have appreciated her enthusiasm and kindness in representing Harvard to our partner institutions. We are excited for both Ani and Elizabeth Parsons as they transition across the hall (both figuratively and literally) to work with our colleagues in the Research Compliance Program within the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. Elizabeth has been a leader within the IRB team for years, with patience, inquisitiveness, and warmth serving her well in tackling some of our most challenging studies. You may reach Ani and Elizabeth here.

Did you know that IRB staff are assigned as the point of contact for specific Harvard schools and departments? As you may suspect, many of these assignments are in flux, and some departments are in rotation across staff as we fill open positions. You may find more information on department assignments here.

A researcher from SEAS? SCRB? GSD? [Insert another acronym here!] Let me introduce you to Katie Jones, who joined the HUA IRB in October! Katie brings a wealth of IRB experience on both the Social Behavioral and Biomedical sides and is now ready to help you with your research. You may find Katie here.

OHRP Informed Consent Training

In February, our federal regulators at the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) introduced a new interactive training program on informed consent. From OHRP:

OHRP is excited to present our brand new Interactive Online Training for Writing Participant-Centered Informed Consent. The program has 6 modules and offers a comprehensive training to help the research community create, design, and review consent forms or templates for research participation in a way that helps participants understand the content and anticipates their needs. A printable certificate is available upon completion. We encourage you to review this training whether you are an investigator, a research coordinator, an IRB reviewer, or someone designing a consent form for an online platform.

Please explore this new resource here, and don't forget about resources available from the HUA IRB in our Investigator Manual in the Library of documents in ESTR!

International Devices

Our colleagues in HUIT recently launched an International Travel Loaner Devices program to support investigators traveling to high risk countries as part of their research. As they summarize:

Bringing computers or phones when traveling heightens the risk of data and identity theft. To support productivity and increase security, HUIT is launching a new service providing loaner devices for travel to high cyber risk countries. After a successful pilot with FAS Sciences faculty members, this offering will now be available University-wide to staff, faculty, and researchers who need a phone or computer while visiting China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia.

Please click the link above for more details on the program and to make a request!

Do You Speak IRB?



OUE Review

The HUA IRB and the Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE) review research proposals that involve Harvard College students to protect the privacy of our community and integrity of the educational process, as well as to avoid survey fatigue.

Harvard-affiliated researchers who wish to survey or otherwise study the undergraduate population must follow IRB procedures prior to starting research. As the IRB process includes additional vetting by OUE when undergraduates are involved, please be aware that this may result in a delay or denial of access to this population. Please be sure to build time into your research to address any IRB or OUE concerns as well. IRB staff will trigger an ancillary review to colleagues in OUE as part of your IRB review process in ESTR.

Generally, OUE identifies concerns related to the impact research may have on the well-being of students and their educational experience and/or the recruitment techniques involved. Be aware that while Harvard-affiliated researchers may recruit via email

listservs of which they are already members, or mailing lists that agree to forward their requests, they may not ask residential staff or leadership to forward recruitment materials on their behalf.

Harvard-affiliated researchers may wish to use the Harvard Department of Psychology's Study Pool to find subject participants. Please see [here](#) for more information.

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