IRBNews

AAHRPP Reaccreditation

The ETSU Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) exists to promote high quality, ethical research. The ETSU HRPP is an institutional-wide program coordinated by the Office for the Protection of Human Research Subjects and composed of research review committees and other entities responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of participants in research conducted at ETSU. The HRPP has been accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) since 2005. The HRPP is currently conducting a thorough self-assessment to apply for re-accreditation and will expect a site visit to occur in 2021.

Human Subjects Research Re-start Plan

The HRPP remains committed to providing services to maintain and protect the health and welfare of its students, employees, and research participants. ETSU has identified a plan to inform the campus of the re-entry process across many domains, and that plan is available at etsu.edu/bucks-are-back.

The ETSU Plan for Return to Academic Research Activities established by the Provost outlines the safety precautions required for all on campus research activities including human subjects research approved by the ETSU IRBs. All researchers are expected to comply with ETSU directives regarding safety precautions and should familiarize themselves with the requirements that have been made available at www.etsu.edu/irb.

Researchers should continue to utilize remote research procedures where possible and in accordance with the IRB-approved protocol. Contact the Vice Provost for Research or IRB Office for assistance with resuming or initiating research.

New Rule Transition

The New Common Rule (which governs IRBs) has been fully implemented at ETSU, and now we are working towards transitioning eligible research to the New Rule. More information about the Common Rule changes and how those were implemented at ETSU is available on the IRB homepage. Research originally approved prior to January 1, 2019 were approved under the “Old Rule” and are grandfathered under those regulatory requirements. ETSU can voluntarily transition research to the New Rule requirements, and has begun that process to take advantage of the reduced administrative burden afforded by the New Rule changes. What we are calling Phase 1 Transition was completed administratively on June 5, 2020 and included the transition of 125 studies that were in data analysis only. The process did not require any action on the part of the PI, and each study received a notification of the transition. We are working towards implementing Phase 2 for studies that are actively enrolling and will release more information soon. Those studies will be transitioned on a study-by-study basis during the routine continuing review process.

Updates for Research with MSHA, Ballad Health

The ETSU/VA Medical IRB has a longstanding relationship with MSHA, an affiliate of Ballad Health and has historically served as their IRB of record. With the merger of the health system, Ballad Health has decided to create its own Ballad Health IRB and infrastructure to support its own HRPP. More information will be made available soon about how this change impacts ETSU researchers.

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