



Best Practices for IRB Chairs and IRB Members

IRB “Creep” and  
Succession Planning

**Linda R. Triemer, PhD**

OHRP Research Community Forum 2013  
Oakland University, Rochester, MI  
May 2, 2013

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



IRB “Creep”

- I. Background
- II. Issues
- III. Future Directions

---

---


---

---

---

---

---



**Sunday, March 13, 2011**

**Professor Sues Brown University Over  
IRB Mission Creep**

Jin Li, Associate Professor of Education at Brown University, has sued the university in federal court for forbidding her from using data from a study she conducted with private funding.

<http://www.institutionalreviewblog.com/2011/03/professor-sues-brown-university-over.html>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## II. Issues

- Unnecessary IRB review
  - Lack of focus on RISK determination
- Too much attention to ICF language
  - Lack of focus on Consent Process
- Over-reaching authority to punish
  - Lack of institutional coordination

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Future Directions

- Determine what needs IRB review
  - Use “exemption” flexibility
- Focus on consent process
  - Videos, social media
- Focus on approvals
  - Refer disapprovals and noncompliance to institution for action

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Succession Planning

- I. Background
- II. Issues
- III. Future Directions

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Background – Typical IRB

- Non-compensated members
- Institutional “appointments”
- Community “volunteers”
- Institutional “memory” substitutes for structured policies and processes
- Staff is more knowledgeable on human research protection than IRB members

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Issues

- I. Tenure is not specified
- II. Performance is not reviewed formally
- III. Institution does not reward IRB service in promotion and merit decisions
- IV. Volunteers are not “engaged”, only serve to fulfill quorum requirements

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Future Directions

- Define appointment terms and process
- Develop metrics on performance and give to member and institution
- Reward top performers! Share reward acknowledgment with institution
- Engage all members!
  - ❖ Primary reviewers
  - ❖ Consent observers
  - ❖ Providing “education” at meetings
  - ❖ Workshop leaders

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Post-Script

- IRBs are the community conscience
  - They ensure participants give consent
    - *The “creep” makes IRBs do quasi-consenting*
- IRB members are people too!
  - Rewards are benefits!
    - *Successful IRBs DEFINE member expectations*
- Know your community
  - Institutional and neighborhood
    - *Movers and shakers and how things “get done”*

---

---

---

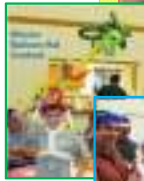
---

---

---

---

## A Happy Retired HRPP Director



[www.klinkerthec clown.com](http://www.klinkerthec clown.com)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---