

August 2021 Edition

USF IRB Newsletter

Your source for updates from the University of South Florida Institutional Review Board



August USF IRB Newsletter – Welcome Back! Fall Splash Edition

Fall 2021 Events/Education Calendar – USF Human Research Protection program (HRPP)

Welcome back, USF students and faculty! The USF HRPP team has been working hard over the summer months to ensure that our USF research and affiliate community has access to a variety of research-related trainings, events, and new engaging initiatives to kick off the fall semester! A summary and schedule of a few of our larger scale educational events for fall 2021 can be found below. Stay tuned to the IRB Newsletter for additional events, updates, and registration links!

Virtual USF IRB 2021 Student Research Workshop!

Due to the success of the fall 2020 Student Research Workshop being offered in a virtual format, the USF IRB has again decided to offer this workshop virtually for fall 2021! This workshop is being offered on two different days, is open to all USF students, and will describe the roll, authority and composition of the IRB. The workshop will also outline IRB requirements for conducting human subjects research and aims to support USF students in becoming familiar with submitting an initial study application in Bulls IRB.

In addition, students will gain valuable information on creating study protocols and will learn about informed consent regulations/guidelines and how to access USF IRB templates. At the completion of this valuable workshop, students will understand the expectations for IRB approval, research compliance standards, and study documentation expectations. Furthermore, at the conclusion of the event, attendees

will receive their IRB required Human Subjects Protection certification, that will be valid for three (3) years!

Virtual USF IRB Student Research Workshop Dates:

- **September 15th 3:00pm-5:00pm**
- **September 16th 10:00am-12:00pm**

The event will allow 200 people on each day, so register soon! To register for this event, please click: [Virtual USF IRB 2021 Student Research Workshop](#). For additional information about the workshop, please contact the USF IRB Education Coordinator, Tatyana R Harris at trharris1@usf.edu.

USF Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Fall 2021 Series!

USF Research Integrity & Compliance is excited to announce the USF Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) fall 2021 training series! USF offers a comprehensive RCR training program, including both online (through CITI) and instructor-led offerings. The typical content of the instructor-led sessions includes information and presentations by experts in the field on human and animal research, safe laboratory practices, conflicts of interest, research misconduct, mentor/mentee relationships and responsibilities, authorship and publications, collaborative research, and peer review of research. The training involves the use of content as well as case studies to assist the learner in understanding the concepts.

This year, USF will offer both a fall 2021 and a spring 2022 RCR training series. Four (4) instructor-led sessions will be offered virtually throughout the fall, and four (4) instructor-led sessions will be offered virtually throughout the spring, resulting in eight (8) opportunities for RCR instruction during the USF 2021-2022 academic year. Each session will cover a different RCR topic and will last approximately one (1) hour. Any USF faculty member or student is welcome to attend these sessions. Attendance at each session will satisfy one (1) credit hour for RCR training. Individuals can attend as many or as few sessions as they like. Certificates of completion for each RCR session will be issued to attendees. A combination of these training sessions will fulfill both NIH and NSF RCR training requirements.

The USF RCR fall 2021 training series schedule is outlined below. Please check the September IRB Newsletter for registration links:

- **September 21, 2021** (11:00am-12:00pm)
 - *Responsibilities of Mentors and Trainees*
 - Presented by: Brent Small, PhD, Professor, School of Aging Studies
- **October 8, 2021** (10:00am-11:00am)
 - *Conflicts of Interest*
 - Presented by: Paul Stiles, J.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor/Chair, Department of Mental Health Law & Policy, USF COI Committee Chair

- **October 27, 2021** (11:00am-12:00pm)
 - *Fundamentals of Copyright Law*
 - Presented by: LeEtta Schmidt, MLS, Copyright and Intellectual Property Librarian, USF Libraries
- **November 22, 2021** (12:00pm-1:00pm)
 - *Current Topics in Human Subjects Research*
 - Janelle Perkins, PharmD, Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy, Vice Chair USF IRB

For more information on RCR requirements and offerings, please visit our [website](#). For any questions, please contact Gina Larsen (USF IRB Manager) at glarsen@usf.edu.

NEW Educational Initiative Alert! - USF IRB Spotlight Presentations

The USF IRB has developed a new educational initiative to showcase the great research being conducted by our USF faculty members and students. The USF IRB Spotlight Presentations highlight two (2) investigators quarterly: one (1) student and (1) one faculty member. This will be an opportunity for the investigators to share their research activities and outcomes with the larger USF research community.

It is our hope that students will gain valuable experience presenting their research activities to their peers, which will foster both professional development and promote research collaboration at USF. Faculty members will gain added recognition as they conduct their research endeavors.

1st Spotlight Presentation will be held Tues. Oct 12th from 1:00p-2:00p

To be a presenter at this event, you may nominate yourself or a student or faculty member by completing this [Spotlight Presentation Nomination Form](#)! For this initial event, nominations are due September 17th and speakers will be announced in the October Newsletter. For additional information about this educational showcase initiative, please click [HERE](#) or contact the USF IRB Education Coordinator, Tatyana R. Harris at trharris1@usf.edu.

BullsIRB Application Approval Times

In October of 2019, the USF IRB launched the new electronic IRB submission system, BullsIRB. Now that the BullsIRB system has stabilized after initial launch and IRB administration has revised several policies and procedures based off feedback from USF faculty, staff, and students, we are excited to share a general overview of our BullsIRB initial study application review and approval times for 2020 and the first half of 2021.

The numbers below reflect the average number of calendar days from IRB pre-review (once the BullsIRB application is routed to the IRB’s queue for review – after department/ancillary approval) to IRB approval. IRB review and approval times can vary throughout the year based on a number of factors, including review type (exempt, expedited, or full board), time of year, application volume in the IRB queue, and responsiveness of the research team to IRB requests.

Year	Number of Initial Study Submissions	Average Days from Pre-Review to Final Determination
2020	1030	23.4
2021 <i>(January – June)</i>	457	19.0

We are encouraged that our IRB review and approval times have decreased steadily over the past two years – in part due to the increased ease of submitting and reviewing applications in the BullsIRB system, but also due in part to increased IRB educational initiatives, such as workshops, videos, and guidance documents, that aid our USF researchers in submitting well-formatted BullsIRB applications. As a reminder, you can access IRB educational materials and step-by-step tutorials on our IRB [Regulation and Guidance](#) website.

