

# IRB NEWSLETTER

**Greetings IRB Members!**

May 2018

Please read below for current updates on the  
SJH Human Research Protection Program.



## Important Updates

### Recent OHRP Guidance

#### **Effects of Disasters on Human Research Protections Programs**

Earlier this month the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) published guidance on the oversight of ongoing human research protections programs in areas affected by disasters. From earthquakes to tornados to wildfires, our ministries exist in disaster prone areas and we should be prepared to the extent that we can to continue protections for our research participants in the event a calamity occurs.

OHRP outlines several options for ongoing research studies in the event of a disaster. With regard to IRB review of research, the guidance notes that a disaster may prevent IRBs from meeting to provide continuing review of research and suggests that arrangements be made to rely on IRBs outside of the disaster area to provide the necessary oversight. Consistent with OHRP's recommendations, the SJH HRPP has entered into reliance agreements with several external IRBs, including those of our Providence partners, and we are prepared to shift oversight of ongoing research to these IRBs on a temporary basis should the need arise.

The OHRP Effects of Disasters on Human Research Protections Programs Guidance can be reviewed here: <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/guidance/effects-of-disasters-on-human-research-protections-programs-guidance/index.html>.

"The goal of NIH research is to acquire new knowledge to help prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat disease and disability, from the rarest genetic disorders to the common cold." — Ike Skelton

# HRPP/IRB Updates

## AAHRPP Updates

We were pleased to learn this month that the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) accepted the SJH HRPP Annual Report as submitted. The successful review means we remain accredited through March 20, 2020. To secure accreditation beyond that date, we will be re-applying for accreditation in March 2019, and expecting a site visit in late 2019/early 2020.

Preparations for reaccreditation are already underway and will entail reevaluation and revision of existing policies, procedures, guidance, etc. in order to ensure ongoing compliance with the regulations governing the protection of research participants and AAHRPP standards. We will be reaching out to IRB members in the coming months to solicit input and/or provide education on any changes that may impact the IRB review process.

If you have any questions regarding AAHRPP or the accreditation process, please contact Adam Pucci HRPP Manager, at [Adam.Pucci@stjoe.org](mailto:Adam.Pucci@stjoe.org).

## IRB Membership Updates

### Farewell Peter Leets...

Peter Leets, a voting member of IRB #2, and previously an alternate member of IRB #1, representing the communities of our ministries, has resigned due to competing personal commitments. Peter served on the IRB for over three years and provided insightful commentary on protocols from the perspective of potential research participants. We thank Peter for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors.

With the departure of a valuable IRB member, we are inviting current IRB members to refer individuals they may know who have expressed an interest in serving on one of the SJH IRBs. We are seeking a member living in the community of one of our ministries with a non-scientific background, and who is unaffiliated with SJH. Please feel free to put anyone who may be interested in touch with Adam Pucci.