



... Putting Technology To Work

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To All PNNL Staff

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Subject Research Involving Human Subject Activities

Research involving human subject activities is an important part of the work we do at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. I fully support this research as does the Institutional Review Board (IRB), which is composed of ten PNNL and community volunteers who review these studies for compliance with federal regulations. The Board and I are committed to the ethical conduct of this research, in particular to protect the rights and welfare of the human subjects who make this research possible. I am asking those of you who are involved in this research, be it in the actual conduct of the work, its management, or administrative support, to also be fully committed to the ethical conduct of this research.

Federal and state regulations to protect human subjects apply to a much broader range of research than you may realize. In addition to traditional biomedical studies, legal obligations to protect human subjects apply to research that uses:

- Human beings as subjects to test devices, products or materials developed through research
- Private information that can be readily identified with individual persons or their families, even if the information was not collected for this study, such as employment, radiation exposure, medical, or legal records
- Studies conducted to gain knowledge that can be generalized about categories or classes of human beings, such as oral history projects, Department of Energy workers, or culturally diverse populations
- Human beings to evaluate environmental or ergonomic alterations such as the effects of lighting options on productivity
- Data collected through intervention or interaction with human beings such as drawing blood, breath analysis, or X-rays; interviews or web-based surveys, video, or audio taping for the purpose of research and generalizable scientific knowledge
- Biological materials derived from humans such as organs, tissues, and biofluids.

For further information, policies and procedures please refer to the Human Subjects Home Page at [www.pnl.gov/hs](http://www.pnl.gov/hs) and to <http://sbms.pnl.gov/standard/29/2901e010.htm>.

If your research involves any of the activities noted above, please familiarize yourself with the appropriate regulations and institutional requirements. For instance, documentation of training is required before research involving human subject activities may be initiated. If you would like to discuss the applicability of these requirements to your research or have other concerns related to the conduct of human subject research, please contact Sherry Davis, IRB Program Manager, at 375-3610.