Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

PNNL Institutional Review Board
Human Subjects Research Program

Assurances:
FWA4696 - IRB0285
HHS MPA-1221
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Institutional Review Board

IRB Staff and Contact Information

IRB Chair	Harvey A. Ragan, DVM, DABT
IRB Vice Chair	Alan C. Rither, JD
IRB Program Manager	Sherry E. Davis, CIM
IRB Secretary	Sharon Y. Eckert
Telephone	(509) 375-3610
Onsite Address	Mail Stop K1-67, ROB/1414
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Current IRB Membership/Expertise

PNNL strives to maintain an IRB membership that will provide a healthy balance between relevant scientific expertise and broad community perspective. The IRB is currently composed of eleven members, five of whom are active or retired PNNL employees and six who, in addition to their professional expertise, represent a wide variety of community interests. In addition, IRB members are invited to serve on the Board based on their ability to meet requirements of continuing education and the more general requirements of attendance, which include thorough preparation and active participation in scheduled meetings. The IRB is constituted and all its activities are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Common Rule.

PNNL Laboratory Employees:

•Toxicologic Pathology
•Legal Counsel
•Radiation Biology
•Preventive Medicine. Public/Occupational Health
•IRB Program Management

Community Members:

•Elementary Education/Spanish (PNNL affiliation)
•Clinical Psychology

- Pathology
- Bacteriology/Public Health (PNNL affiliation)
- Minister/Medical Ethics
- Anesthesiology
- Occupational Medicine

Meeting Schedule

The IRB meets once a month or as-needed in an effort to provide expeditious review of protocols, whenever possible. Educational meetings often coincide with protocol reviews.

IRB Responsibility and Authority

The PNNL IRB was established over 30 years ago in response to concerns raised when the Laboratory assumed responsibility for a study involving prisoners.

By delegation of the Laboratory Director, the IRB has the authority to approve, require modification in or disapprove proposed human subjects research and may suspend or revoke its approval of previously approved research that is found out of compliance or associated with serious harm to subjects. The IRB is responsible for reviewing approved research at intervals appropriate to the degree of risk to subjects, but not less than once a year and is responsible for conducting compliance reviews as determined appropriate by the IRB at the time of its approval.

The IRB performs a thorough assessment of the anticipated risks and benefits to subjects, the effectiveness of the informed consent process, and the importance of the knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result from the research to ensure that risks are minimized and benefits are maximized to the greatest extent possible.

Education

IRB Members and support staff must provide certification of IRB training every two years and the IRB Program Administrator is required to maintain national certification as an IRB professional. In addition to the bi-yearly certification, Board members receive continuing education during meetings, by email and other mailings. Presentations, tours and basic tutorials are provided for specific items of interest, such as the Belmont Report or proteomics. IRB members may be asked to provide presentations in their particular areas of interest and attend and/or participate in national conferences. To register for bi-yearly training, IRB members use the **NIH Training Site for IRB Members**.

508 BOBBY APPROVED

Contact: Sherry Davis
Pagemaster: Carol Elledge
Reviewed: October 6, 2004

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