

**March 16, 2009**

**Deans, Directors, Department Chairs and Administrative Officers**

**Re: HRPP Improvement Plan Rollout**

I am pleased to announce the roll out of several improvements to the Human Research Protection Program within the OPRS that will occur over the next few weeks. A sampling of the improvements is listed below:

- Improved organization of [OPRS Human Research](#) website
- Posting of IRB approval notices and approval packets on Office of Research Portal for download by the researchers
- Updated and revised application forms for Exempt Certification and for Data, Records and Specimens Review
- Revised primary application (currently called HS-1): one version for Social Behavioral and Health Services research and a separate version for Biomedical research
- Application Supplements to be used with the primary application for particular subject populations or study types; i.e. supplements for the inclusion of children, or prisoners, or for studies involving investigational drugs, or multi-institutional studies
- Creation of a PI Self Certification Form and related guidance and decision tree to help PIs determine if studies meet the definition of human research and whether or not IRB review is required
- The elimination of the requirement for IRB "administrative" approvals for grants with indefinite plans for the use of human subjects at the time of grant award (e.g., training grants) and for grants with multiple protocols that each have their own IRB approval (e.g., program projects or center grants). IRB approvals will continue to be needed for individual studies involving human subjects once a study does have a definite plan. (Guidance from OCGA to address the affect of this change on the receipt of grant awards is forthcoming.)
- Updated guidelines, procedures and policies posted on the website
- A more transparent and expedited process for expedited review of studies that may qualify for expedited review
- An updated and improved on-line training and certification program for human research investigators

A more detailed description of these improvements is posted on the OPRS Human Research Website under [What's New?](#). If you are signed up for the [Human Research list serve](#), updates will be sent to you electronically through *Human Research News* as they occur. If you wish to provide feedback about these changes, please see the [Program Feedback](#) section on the OPRS website.

Sincerely,

*Roberto Peccei*

Vice Chancellor for Research