March 8, 2010

Two New Electronic Research Support Tools

The Office of Research continues to work to improve the electronic tools that support research activities at Ohio State. I am happy to announce the launch of two new tools that make it easier to find the university’s web-based research resources and begin a transition from paper to online protocol submission systems.

Streamlined Access to Electronic Research Forms and Software

Research Online is Ohio State’s new electronic research administration toolbox. Now all of our web-based software and forms that support your research can be found in one place – researchonline.osu.edu. Within Research Online, you can easily access familiar tools (e.g. Cayuse424, CITI Training, PI Portal) as well as new software for online protocol submission and review.

Research Online tools are organized by topic.

- Looking for the e-PA-005? Click here.
- Need to take the required CITI human subjects training? Click here.
- Need to access your proposal, award, or expenditure information? Click here.
The university has licensed a suite of software modules (Click Commerce core technology) to support submission and review of all of Ohio State’s human subject and animal research protocols. This software package is used at more than 50 of our peer institutions. Because customizing the commercial software to support Ohio State processes takes time and resources, modules are being implemented over time to achieve the best performance.

The first two “e-Protocol” modules will soon go live. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) activities will be the first to automate. Beginning **March 15, 2010**, you will be able to register to access the “e-IACUC” and “e-IBC” modules at eprotocol.osu.edu. Once registered, you’ll be able to view your existing IACUC and IBC protocol records, check the progress of your protocols under review, and create new protocol submissions for these committees. As of **May 1, 2010**, current IACUC and IBC paper application forms will be removed from our web sites. As of **July 1, 2010**, paper forms will no longer be accepted.

Testers across campus have found the software to be easy to use. However, if you wish to receive training with the e-IACUC and e-IBC modules, in-person training will be provided at various locations across campus beginning **March 16, 2010** (please register at research.osu.edu/ortec/training/e-protocol). Further information about the e-IACUC software and plans for its implementation is available at researchonline.osu.edu/animal-research/e-iacuc. Further information about the e-IBC software and plans for its implementation is available at researchonline.osu.edu/biohazards-in-research/e-ibc. You may also access e-Protocol directly from Research Online.

We will be continuing to work on the remaining modules within the software suite that will allow electronic submissions for Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocols and automate conflict of interest disclosures, and we will keep you updated as these modules are ready to go live.

We deeply appreciate the efforts of the many faculty and staff who partnered with the Office of Research in the selection, development, and testing of e-Protocol. Although we have tested extensively and have tried to find all the potential “bugs” in the software, we will need your help in identifying any remaining problems that might occur. So please be sure to contact us if you encounter any difficulties in using these modules.

Your ongoing feedback will help make e-Protocol the best possible resource. We welcome your suggestions and comments and hope that you will find this tool to be a substantial improvement over the old paper forms.

**Feedback/Questions**

For further information or to provide feedback, please contact Judith Neidig, Director, Office of Responsible Research Practices, at 614-292-1840 or neidig.1@osu.edu.

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