Use of Human Participants in Research

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Professor Jennifer Gerner,
Policy Analysis and Management
Chairperson, IRB
Research with human participants

Cornell committed to the ethical treatment and protection of human participants in research

All research activities that involve

1. the collection of information through intervention, interaction with, or observation of individuals or

2. the collection or use of private information about individuals

must be approved by the Institutional Review Board for Human Participants (IRB) prior to initiation.
Research with human participants

An active human participant research portfolio-

• Primarily social and behavioral research
• 900 active research protocols
• Over 500 Principal Investigators
• Many types of projects reflecting the diversity of Cornell research
• Diverse participant pools- students, children, prisoners, international studies, ethnic groups, etc.
• Multi-disciplinary and novel areas of research- Computer Science, Engineering, Microbiology, etc.
The Cornell IRB

- Implements Cornell’s Human Research Protection Program
- Responsible for conducting ethical review of research that involves human participants, in compliance with federal regulations and University policies
  - Informed consent
  - Equitable selection of participants
  - Assessment of Risk/Benefit
- A committee of 14-18 members
  - research active faculty representing many disciplines
  - medical professionals from the Gannett Health Center
  - 2-3 community/non-scientific members
  - appointed by the President for a 3 year term
What you need to know

Recognize the privilege of conducting research with human participants

- When in doubt, contact the IRB office for consultation
- Plan in advance, allowing 4 weeks minimum for approval
- Conduct any research only after project is approved by the IRB. Submission alone does not imply approval!
- Take the online IRB training
- Maintain continuing approval of your project
- Conduct the research in full compliance with the approved protocol.
What does the IRB need for review?

- A description of your research – IRB application form (http://www.irb.cornell.edu/)
- Recruitment materials
- Informed consent form(s)
- Research instruments
- Documentation of approval/support for research being conducted at other locations

- If your research is likely to involve biomedical procedures/collecting or using Biomaterials, other institutional considerations will apply. Contact the IRB office in advance, for guidance.
Support for Investigators

- IRB informational resource http://www.irb.cornell.edu/
- IRB staff conducts outreach and workshops when requested
- Questions concerning submission, review procedures, guidance, training:
  - Matthew Aldridge, Senior IRB Administrator at ma354@cornell.edu or 255-6182
  - Susan Lewis, IRB Administrator, at irbhp@cornell.edu or 255-513
  - Nicole Albright, IRB Administrative Assistant, for amendments (irbhp-amendments@cornell.edu) or 254-5162
Welcome to Cornell!
We look forward to working with you on your human participant research project!