On July 1, the Office of Research Assurances officially changed its name to the Office for Responsible Research (ORR). The Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development agreed that the new name better reflects ORR’s expanded role in managing compliance responsibilities for Iowa State University. In addition to providing administrative services for four compliance review committees, ORR will also provide services for the areas of conflict of interest and export control.

The Office for Responsible Research (ORR) recently adopted several changes to the IRB Exempt Study Review Form and the Application for Approval of Research Involving Humans (formerly called the Human Subjects Review Form). These changes were made for two reasons: (1) ongoing review of departmental efficiency and effectiveness disclosed a need for more clarity in the forms; and (2) concerns about the forms expressed by Institutional Review Board (IRB) members needed to be addressed.

The newly revised forms can be found on the IRB segment of the ORR website, www.compliance.iastate.edu. We recently revamped our website, which made its debut on July 1, so please take time to familiarize yourself with its new look and organization. And, be sure to check the IRB Guidance & Education web page periodically for additions to the Investigator’s Guide, a collection of documents and templates designed to further your understanding of research compliance requirements.

Researchers who conduct studies in Uganda that involve human participants are required to comply with Uganda’s two-tier system of research approval. Under this system, approval of research is granted both at the institutional level by an institutional review committee (IRC) and at the national level by the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST).

In addition to obtaining Iowa State University IRB approval, investigators will be required to identify a relevant local institution of affiliation in Uganda. If the investigators have a problem identifying such an institution, the UNCST will offer suggestions. The investigators would then maintain this affiliation while they are in Uganda for research.

If the selected affiliate institution has an IRC registered with the UNCST, the local IRC would also need to review the study before it can be submitted to UNCST for registration and final approval. If the local institution does not have an IRC, then the investigators should submit the protocol directly to UNCST along with the ISU IRB approval.

There is a fee for registration of studies conducted in Uganda, and investigators should allow plenty of time for the approval process. Additional information about conducting research in Uganda can be found in the “National Guidelines for Research Involving Humans as Research Participants” available online at www.uncst.go.ug/site/documents/rihp_guide.pdf.