The ORR BULLETIN
News from the Office for Responsible Research

New Compliance Training Series

A new document was recently posted to the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Investigator’s Guide on the Office for Responsible Research website. Entitled “Frequently Asked Questions about Risk Assessment and Personal Protective Equipment,” the document explains that risk assessment is an important responsibility of principal investigators (PIs) who work with biological materials.

A risk assessment should be used to select the biosafety level and the personal protective equipment in the application for IBC approval and is a required part of the application. The risk assessment should also be used to inform personnel about the hazards of working with infectious agents and the need for proficiency in the use of selected safe practices and containment equipment. A thorough and careful risk assessment also protects individuals not associated with the project, such as other occupants of the building and the public.

The Office for Responsible Research (ORR) is beginning a new series of training sessions. The first session, “Introduction to Research Compliance at ISU,” will be held on September 8 at 3:10 p.m. in 1106 Pearson Hall. Those interested in attending are asked to register by emailing Connie Regenold, cregenol@iastate.edu.

This introductory session is targeted at new investigators and research staff and will be offered at the start of the Fall and Spring semesters. Additional sessions throughout the school year will cover various research compliance topics, including post-approval monitoring, animal health, NIH recombinant DNA guidelines, conflict of interest, and research integrity. Information about ISU’s compliance committees—IACUC, IBC, IRB, and Radiation Safety—will also be presented. Tentative plans are to offer one session per month with pre-registration required.

The ORR will also be holding monthly brown bag Q & A sessions to give members of the research community the opportunity to get answers to their questions about the ISU compliance program and committees. Attendees are encouraged to forward their questions to the ORR prior to the meeting to help ensure they are fully addressed.

Information about both of these training series will be available on the ORR website and the university’s online calendar. You can also contact Connie Regenold, 294-1516.

New Tool for Recruiting IRB Participants

Recently, a new “Research Participant Opportunities” web page designed to assist investigators in recruiting participants for research involving human subjects was added to the VPR/ED website. This web page will list opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and community members to volunteer as participants in research involving human subjects. The page can be accessed via the Quick Link entitled “Participants Needed,” located on the right-hand side of the VPR/ED homepage.

Investigators interested in posting an announcement to this site will need to include a copy of the proposed advertisement in their IRB application for approval. The advertisement should follow the format given on the web page. After obtaining IRB approval for the study and the advertisement, ISU investigators may request posting by sending the approved advertisement to Laurie Engleen, lengleen@iastate.edu.