OUR MISSION
The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) ensures research at Ball State University is in compliance with university policies and with applicable provisions of federal, state, and local laws and regulations. The ORI is here to provide guidance to the BSU Research Community.

CONTACT US
orihelp@bsu.edu
(765) 285-5052
ORI Website
West Quad Building Room 100

IRB UPDATES
We've got news!

Expedited Progress Reports and Continuing Reviews
In recent months, Ball State’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) has decided to no longer required progress reports or continuing reviews for most Expedited studies. If your Expedited study still has an expiration date, you are to submit one last progress report or continuing review and the IRB will remove this date upon submission approval. Once your protocol’s expiration date has been removed, you will no longer need to submit any progress reports or continuing reviews for that particular study. You can check your study’s expiration status in IRBNet.

Studies Deemed “Not Human Subjects Research”
One of any IRB’s responsibilities is to carefully determine which study protocols require IRB approval. Human Subjects Research (HSR) is the Federally-defined type of research that requires IRB approval to conduct. There are many criteria that determine what constitutes HSR. Therefore, each protocol submitted to Ball State’s IRB is thoughtfully reviewed separately, with every unique detail taken into account. Even with a “Not HSR” determination, your study has still been reviewed by the IRB. The only difference is that the study does not need “approval”.

It is of great importance to us to convey that a determination of “Not HSR” does not mean a study is not research, and that it in no way officially detracts from the importance of your contribution to the scientific community. A determination of “Not HSR” simply means that study does not fit a specific research type as defined by federal guidelines. Please reach out to our office with any questions or concerns.
IRB UPDATES
...continued

IRBNet Protocol Numbers

The IRB requires IRBNet protocol numbers be listed on the majority of study documents. You may have noticed that the last digit of your number changes each time a submission is altered (e.g., XXX-1, XXX-2, XXX-3…). We no longer require the final digit (i.e., the “dash” number) of your protocol number be listed. Only the main, long string of numbers needs to be included on relevant documents, as this will not change. We still recommend that the full number be used when corresponding with our office so that we know exactly which submission version you are referring to. However, your study documents do not need to be continuously updated as the dash number changes. Please remember that your IRBNet protocol number is required on all recruitment materials and informed consent documents.

Revisions of Deferred Studies

If your study has been deferred by the IRB, there is no need to create a whole new package when submitting your changes. You simply need to submit your updated documents as a Revision! Refer to pages 19-23 of our IRBNet User Manual for assistance.

Project Edits Taking Longer Than Expected?

We know that editing your project per IRB feedback can take some time. However, take too long and your project may be withdrawn. It is important to communicate with ORI staff if your protocol edits or revisions are taking longer than expected. If you need more time, we understand. Just let us know. From there, you will have the option of finalizing your project by an agreed-upon date and time, or we can withdraw the package so that you may resubmit your materials as a new protocol at a later time when you are ready. We encourage you to give us a call or send us an email if you think this applies to you.
Unethical research is a thing of the past, right? Well…not quite. As recently as the 2010’s, unethical research has placed the dignity and lives of people at risk.

The iCOMPARE and FIRST trials were studies using first-year medical residency students at over 190 US hospitals. Students were assigned shifts lasting 28 consecutive hours (if not more). The goal of this research was to test whether patient deaths increased as the medical students’ shifts were extended (indicating a decrease in quality of care). Neither the students nor the patients were notified that they were a part of the research. Therefore, participation was not voluntary and consequently, these individuals had no way of withdrawing from the study. To make matters worse, the trials were incorrectly deemed “not human subjects research” by many participating institutions, so Institutional Review Board (IRB) intervention was poor. Furthermore, even without IRB approval, the researchers were aware of the tremendous risk they were imposing on all study participants and still chose not to take steps to minimize it. This highlights the importance of researchers acting ethically and responsibly, even if no IRB is “watching” them.

The FIRST trial was eventually shut down in 2015. The iCOMPARE study was completed in 2016. You can read more about these trials here.

### UPCOMING IRB MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expedited</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Submission Deadline</strong></td>
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<td>March 11</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
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*Click here to view dates for the entire academic year.*
The Scope of ORI

Although our office does primarily manage Human Subjects Research, our scope goes far beyond that. We are here to help if you have questions or concerns pertaining to:

- Conflict(s) of Interest
- Research Misconduct
- HIPAA Compliance
- FERPA Compliance
- Institutional Animal Care and Usage (IACUC)
- Bio Safety (IBC)
- Laboratory Safety and Security (LSSC)
- International Travel
- Controlled Substances
- Export Control

...and more

Resources for Researchers

Peer Mentoring

Do you have questions about the research process or would like some one-on-one guidance on your IRB application? The ORI graduate assistants are here to help! Check out the Peer Mentoring page of our website for drop-in hours, or contact our office to set up a phone or in-person appointment.

Training Sessions

The Office of Research Integrity now has an electronic form for requesting class presentations and trainings. You can access the form here. It is also available in various places on our website, including our homepage and via the “Education and Training” tab on the left-hand side menu.

Research Design Studio

The Research Design Studio works with faculty, students, and the community to support the inception of research ideas to the publication of articles. If you need assistance with study design, grant development, mentoring synthesis, and more, contact the Research Design Studio (TC 512) at 765-285-7601 or click here to schedule a consultation.

Our Many Online Resources

Our website is full of handbooks, manuals, links, and other resources that cover just about anything you would need to know. Among our most used are our IRBNet User Manual, our CITI Program User Manual, and our Graduate Student Research Handbook. These and others can be found on the topic-relevant pages of our website or via our FAQs page.

Tech Talk

IRBNet

Having technical problems with IRBNet? You’re not alone! The most common issue users encounter pertains to downloading or viewing PDFs. To help this, we recommend using Firefox as your browser, and downloading and opening the documents using Adobe Acrobat Reader DC. Click here if you need the installation. If you experience any other technical difficulties when using IRBNet, please contact IRBNet's technical support team at (877) 261-6461 or support@irbnet.org.

ORI Email

Please note that our office's current email address is orihelp@bsu.edu, not irb@bsu.edu. Be sure to indicate the correct address on your proposal documents whenever applicable.
OFFICE OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY STAFF

Christopher Mangelli  Director of Research Integrity  cmmangelli@bsu.edu

Jim Klenner  Associate Director of Research Integrity and Lab Safety Officer  jwklenner@bsu.edu

Sena Lim  Human Research Protection Program Manager  slim2@bsu.edu

Sandra Currie  Research Integrity Administrator  slcurrie@bsu.edu

Sarah Ciosek  Graduate Assistant  sjciosek@bsu.edu

Kara Kerns  Graduate Assistant  kakerns@bsu.edu

“Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do”.
-Potter Stewart