



IRB Toolbox

Collaborating Beyond OSU: How to Handle IRB Review?

Collaboration is defined as a creative process where two or more people work together toward a common goal and is a vital part of many research endeavors. So how is collaboration with researchers outside OSU handled with respect to human subject protection regulations and IRB review? The good news is that there are a number of options depending on the nature of the collaboration and the affiliation of the collaborator(s).

OSU researchers wishing to collaborate with researchers who are independent of any institution, or who are employed by an institution that does not hold a Federal Wide Assurance of compliance (FWA) with the federal Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP), will need to have the collaborating researcher(s) execute an *Individual Investigator Agreement*. This agreement extends OSU's FWA to cover the independent researcher by requesting that they agree to uphold the ethical standards for conduct of human subject research established in the Belmont Report and to abide by pertinent rules, regulations and institutional (OSU) policies. They must further agree to complete any required training and abide by the determinations of the OSU IRB.

When OSU researchers wish to collaborate with researchers that are employed by other institutions that do hold an FWA with OHRP (i.e., other universities, hospitals, clinics, etc.) there are two options for handling IRB review. In the first option, the research can be reviewed by each individual collaborator's IRB. If the collaborators will be involved in recruiting and consent of participants, some coordination will be needed to insure that recruiting and consent documents are consistent and address each institution's requirements. The other option is to execute an *Institutional Review Board Authorization Agreement* which allows one assured institution to rely on another assured institution for IRB review and oversight of research. This eliminates the need for reviews by multiple IRBs.

For assistance in determining the best option for your situation, examples of these agreements, and more details on how they may be used please contact the OSU IRB Manager at 405-744-5700 or dawnett.watkins@okstate.edu. We want to collaborate with you to help your research succeed.

