Impact of COVID-19 on Human Subjects Research

UC Santa Barbara
Office of Research Integrity

Human Research Protections



Office of Research Integrity status

- Fully operational
- All staff working remotely
- Committee meetings being held and on schedule
- Prioritizing requests related to shutdown and COVID-19
- Conducting virtual meetings with researchers

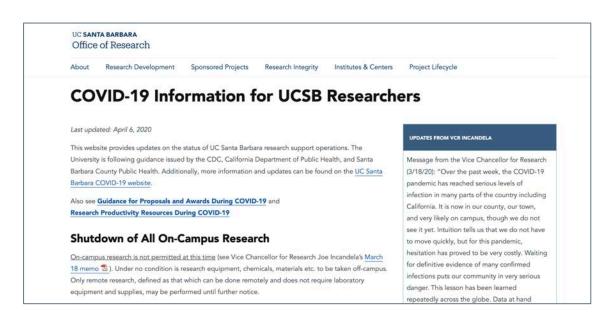
Office of Research Staff

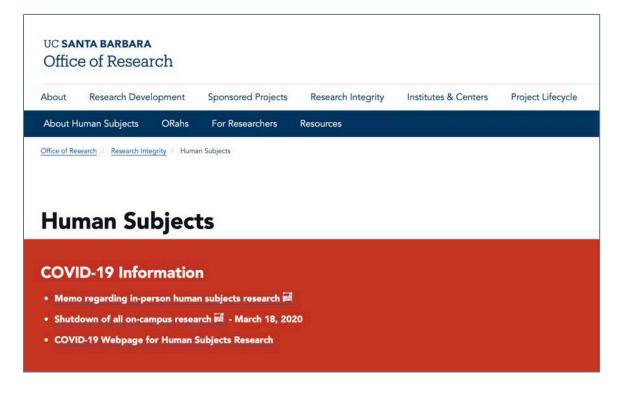
- Barry Rowan, Director
- Melodie Blakemore, Associate Director
- Melissa Warren, Senior Human Subjects Coordinator
- Rebeca Lopez, Human Subjects Specialist New
- Sean Mayuga, Research Integrity Specialist IACUC
- Erin Hakim, COI Administrator & Global Engagement New
- Brian McCurdy, Export Control Officer



Primary Resources

- 1) Office of Research COVID-19 webpage
- 2) Human Subjects COVID-19 webpage





Impact on human subjects research

- In-person and on-campus research paused
- Remote research may continue, if practical
- Modifications to add remote procedures
- Exceptions for critical research (few granted):
 - Great loss and can be done safely
 - COVID-19 related
- International research is subject to same restrictions

Alternatives to in-person interaction



Web surveys (e.g., Qualtrics, MTurk)



Telephone or audio-video conferencing (e.g., Zoom, Skype)



Mail surveys



Data analysis, either secondary use projects or data analysis activities on other project

Modifying a study in response to COVID-19

IRB approval required

 Label modification as COVID-19 These modification requests have been prioritized

Often within days instead of weeks

Informed consent must be obtained, unless a waiver was previously granted

May require a change in process

Submitting new studies

Most studies

Continue to submit - no need to wait until return to normal Remote procedures only - normal process

In-person procedures - certify they will not take place until research pause is lifted

COVID-19 related

Label study as COVID-19 in the Title, <u>AND</u>
Obtain approval in accordance with VCR memo and website

Impact to sponsored research

 Review <u>COVID-19 Guidance for Proposals and Awards</u> webpage

Follow sponsor specific guidance if scope of work impacted

• Encouraged to pursue new funding opportunities

Questions from the chat?