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, AND  
| Obtain approval in accordance with VCR memo and website |
Impact to sponsored research

• Review COVID-19 Guidance for Proposals and Awards webpage

• Follow sponsor specific guidance if scope of work impacted

• Encouraged to pursue new funding opportunities
Questions from the chat?