COMING SOON! - New Office of Research Conflict of Interest disclosure system (ORCOI)

Research Integrity is excited to share that a new Office of Research Conflict of Interest disclosure system (ORCOI) is currently under development. Faculty and researcher feedback was incorporated into the design of the new system and ORCOI will provide a better user experience. ORCOI will also integrate with the Office of Research contracts and grants database, ORBiT, and automate several tasks that are currently processed manually, saving department liaison staff time. We are excited about launching a new system that will streamline the COI disclosure submission process for both researchers and staff. We expect the new ORCOI system to go live in July of this year.

Interested in BETA Testing?

If you would like to serve as a beta tester for ORCOI, please reach out to coi@research.ucsb.edu.

New Ethics and Compliance Briefing For Researchers

The University of California Office of the President will roll out a new instance of the Ethics and Compliance Briefing for Researchers in late spring through the UC Learning Center. This briefing combines the U.C. ethics and NIH grant requirements into one training, which is required every two years. New content will include information that addresses NIH current and pending and other support updates, export control topics and research security. Stay tuned for more details on the roll out of this updated training.
In line with online research guidance

Using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, blogs, chat rooms, online forums, or other social networking sites for your research? How about Zoom or a similar platform? Or perhaps a mobile app for data collection? Online research is popular right now but it’s not always clear when to seek permissions or what to disclose to participants. The IRB is here to help!

Read more about Guidelines for Conducting Online Research

NIH Extension of Clinical Trial Reporting Requirements for Basic Experimental Studies With Human Participants

NIH is extending the period of delayed enforcement for registration and results reporting in CT.GOV through September 24, 2023. This delayed enforcement is only applicable to BESH studies submitted to funding opportunities designated as “basic experimental studies with humans” in the title.

NIH continues to expect registration and results reporting, but with the additional flexibility to register and report results on alternative publicly
available platforms.

Read more about NIH's Extension for BESH Reporting Requirements

What does the term “exempt” actually mean in human subjects research?

“Exempt” is simply a label used to describe narrowly defined categories of human subjects research which require IRB review.

Below are just some examples of “exempt” research that still require an IRB review because the project meets the definition of “research” and “human subject”:

- anonymous online survey involving adults about social media use and news seeking behaviors (exempt category 2);
- benign behavioral interventions involving adults studying environmental habits where participants are randomly assigned to a control or experimental group (exempt category 3);
- secondary use of an identifiable data set from a commercial provider for a fee (exempt category 4).

These projects all have three things in common: (1) they are considered “research” (2) they involve some form of a “human subject” (whether a person or their information), and (3) they are “exempt” because they pose little to no psychological or physical risks.

Read more about What Does “Exempt” Really Mean
Field Safety Guidance

Field safety concerns range from benign, everyday events such as driving or lifting heavy objects to more specific concerns such as zoonotic diseases or poisonous snakes. It is strongly recommended that PIs or group leaders create a Field Safety Plan, and distribute this to lab members, prior to teaching or conducting research in a field setting. Please visit the EH&S Field Safety homepage for more information on field safety training, equipment, and writing an effective Field Safety Plan.

Accreditation Site Visit for the Animal Care and Use Program Update

As mentioned in the previous issue of the Research Integrity Newsletter, UCSB is currently in the process of having our vertebrate Animal Care and Use Program re-accredited by AAALAC. Our IACUC recently completed the document review aspect of the accreditation process, and AAALAC has agreed to postpone the in-person facility visits until June or July. Research groups involved with this site visit will be contacted by the IACUC Coordinator sometime this quarter to begin planning for this visit.

Fundamental Research Exclusion and Deemed Exports

Research conducted by UCSB researchers is considered fundamental
research, as long as there are no restrictions on publishing the research and the research results are ordinarily published and shared broadly within the scientific community. Export control regulations include an exemption for fundamental research, however this term is sometimes misunderstood to mean that export control regulations do not apply to fundamental research.

Read more about when the **Fundamental Research Exclusion applies**

**Upcoming Events**

Interested in hosting a human subjects webinar for your department, class, or research team? We can present on a variety of topics from recruitment to informed consent. Contact us at hsc@research.ucsb.edu to schedule a webinar today!

Stay in Touch!

Questions? Contact us at:
Animal Subjects @ iacuc@lifesci.ucsb.edu
Human Subjects @ hsc@research.ucsb.edu
Conflict of Interest @ coi@research.ucsb.edu
Export Control @ exportcontrol@research.ucsb.edu
Stem Cell and Responsible Conduct of Research @ blakemore@research.ucsb.edu

If you have news or updates or feedback you’d like to share, please send to researchintegrity@research.ucsb.edu
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