



UB HRPP Completes Phase 1 of Accreditation Process

UB's Human Research Protection Program has reached a significant milestone in its efforts toward being accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) having successfully completed Phase 1 of the AAHRPP accreditation process. Phase 1 entailed the review and revision of HRPP policies, procedures and forms to meet AAHRPP standards. Many of the changes will be transparent to investigators while some, the modification of IRB forms for example, will be more noticeable. Implementation of AAHRPP approved forms and processes will be introduced over the next few months.

The accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs is becoming the norm and may become a requirement in the not too distant future. The Veterans Hospital of WNY and Roswell Park Cancer Institute have now had their Human Research Protection Programs accredited by AAHRPP. Almost half of U.S. research universities are now accredited and the remainder are in the process of seeking accreditation. Pfizer recently announced that in the coming years they will be moving toward a time when they will only accept IRB reviews from AAHRPP accredited institutions.

AAHRPP was created in 2001 through the collective efforts of the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Association of American Universities, the National Association of State and Land Grant Colleges, Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research and other national organizations. The AAHRPP accreditation process is modeled on that used for accreditation of animal research by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). Accreditation was seen by these national research supportive organizations as the right response to a well-publicized series of breakdowns in the human subject protection system that received Congressional attention and resulted in a call for increased public accountability.

Phase II of the AAHRPP accreditation process will review the current practice of our program. A team of site visitors from other research institutions and from AAHRPP will come to Buffalo this Spring to meet with investigators, IRB chairs and members, IRB and HRPP administrators, the Vice President for Research and others who interact with our Human Research Protection Program and support our efforts to respect the rights and dignity of research participants while supporting world-class research that embodies the highest ethical standards.