



## UB Pursues Human Research Protection Program Accreditation

Dear Members of the UB Research Community:

I am writing to inform you of the initiation of efforts to have UB's Human Research Protection Program accredited through the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP). Let me provide a concise summary as to why accreditation is both good and necessary. In recent years, a well-publicized series of breakdowns of systems to protect the health and welfare of research participants at other universities led to a call for increased public accountability. In response, notable research organizations determined that a voluntary accreditation process would be preferable to the imminent alternative of increased federal regulatory oversight. In 2001, AAHRPP was created through the collective efforts of the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Association of American Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges 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). UB was fully re-accredited by AAALAC in May, 2006 and is the first SUNY campus to pursue accreditation of its human research protection program through AAHRPP.

The mission of AAHRPP is to facilitate research compliance and to bring Human Research Protection Programs to high performance standards through a commitment to continuous improvement. Examples of AAHRPP accredited universities include Iowa, UC-San Francisco, Johns Hopkins, Minnesota, Pittsburgh, UC-Irvine, Stanford, Arizona, and Washington University as well as notable research hospitals such as Dana Farber Cancer Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham & Women's Hospital and the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. The Executive Director of AAHRPP, Marjorie A. Speers, Ph.D. recently noted that "over the next three or four years most of the nation's major research universities will have completed the accreditation process." Speers emphasizes that "AAHRPP accreditation is meaningful to sponsors, investigators, and, most importantly of all, to research participants precisely because it is difficult to obtain." Information about AAHRPP can be found at [www.aahrpp.org](http://www.aahrpp.org).

The AAHRPP accreditation process will lead to several improvements in UB's Human Subjects Protection Program. This inaugural issue of *HRPP News Bulletin* is but one example. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this process. AAHRPP accreditation will provide the University with a competitive edge with sponsors and will clearly demonstrate our firm commitment to protect the well being of our human research participants. Please feel free to forward any suggestions or recommendations to [zablocki@research.buffalo.edu](mailto:zablocki@research.buffalo.edu).

Sincerely,

Jorge V. José, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research