The Human Subjects Protection Program is announcing a new tool to facilitate IRB review for collaborative research – SMART IRB. SMART IRB is a platform where IRBs share IRB review for multi-site research. Currently, SMART IRB has over 300 research institutions signed on to participate! The benefits of utilizing SMART IRB are:

- Removes the requirement to sign additional collaborative agreements between IRBs
- Researchers and IRBs can view and track IRB protocols between institutions.
- The system designates the role of each IRB, and provides contact information for questions.

I strongly encourage you to review the SMART IRB website at https://smartirb.org. There are several useful short videos on the overview of the process and how an investigator submits a request here: https://smartirb.org/reliance/. Attached is a one-page guidance to share with fellow researchers.

Please contact us with questions.

Thank you,
Mariette

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SMART IRB

Investigator (PI) requests access to SMART IRB*

UA IRB will grant access

PI completes and submits SMART IRB form

UA IRB will accept review through SMART IRB

PI completes and submits UA application for ceding review

UA IRB will provide PI with an approval letter

Once both have been approved the research may begin

SMART IRB is an investigator driven platform for facilitating IRB review of collaborative research. This platform is meant to ease research burden by eliminating the need to obtain multiple IRB reviews for multi-site research.

Using SMART IRB requires BOTH the investigator and IRB to affirmatively act in the system to initiate a study. Investigators submit requests through SMART IRB to initiate a multi-site study. The Investigator must also initiate paperwork at the UA. Once all approvals are in place a study may begin.

To obtain more information or if you have questions about using SMART IRB, please contact our office at VPR-IRB@email.arizona.edu.

*https://smartirb.org/reliance/