The NUS-IRB hopes to keep our researchers updated on the latest ethical issues and problems occurring around the world. This will help us keep abreast of international best practices to ensure that research done in Singapore will be well accepted, scientifically and ethically. These news alerts will be issued as and when incidents are reported.

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NEW GUIDELINE:

NUS-IRB’s Guideline for Research using Cadavers or Cadaveric Tissue Specimens

The NUS Institutional Review Board (IRB) has, on a periodic basis, received research applications involving only cadavers or cadaveric tissue specimens. While it is important to treat cadavers and cadaveric specimens used in research in a professional and respectful manner, the IRB does not regard cadavers and cadaveric specimens as human subjects (“living individuals” requiring protection). This is also in line with the US federal regulations governing research.

As such, research that proposes the use of only cadaver or cadaveric tissue specimens without any individual or identifiable private information does not require IRB / ethics review. However, it is the responsibility of the researcher(s) to seek other necessary relevant approval(s) before commencement, if appropriate, e.g. the Ministry of Health, hospital’s mortuary, material transfer agreement (for overseas specimens) etc.

The new guideline (IRB-GUIDE-021) is available on the IRB’s website. Please contact the IRB Secretariat at 6516 4311 or 66011310 or email at irb@nus.edu.sg if you require further assistance or information.

About NUS-IRB

NUS Institutional Review Board (NUS-IRB) was established on 1st September 2003. This Board (also referred to as the Research Ethics Committee in some countries) will review, approve and monitor the ethical aspects of all NUS research projects that involve human subjects and human tissues/cells/data. Its main objective is to protect the rights and welfare of human research subjects in research activities conducted by NUS students and researchers.

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