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.

In This Issue

1. Implementation of Mandatory CITI Program from 1 April 2010
2. Havasupai Indian Tribe Wins Fight to Limit Research of its DNA

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Implementation of Mandatory Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program from 1 April 2010 for all Researchers in Biological Sciences and Biomedical Research

We would like to remind all NUS researchers in biological sciences and biomedical research that the NUS-IRB had implemented mandatory CITI certification from 1 April 2010.

This is endorsed by the Deaneries of the relevant Faculties/Schools as well as all hospitals conducting research in Singapore.

All researchers are advised to take this online certification as soon as possible at http://www.citiprogram.org/.

Havasupai Indian Tribe Wins Fight to Limit Research of its DNA

The Grand Canyon's Havasupai Indian tribe has settled lawsuits that allege that university researchers of Arizona State University (ASU) had misused blood samples taken from tribal members.

The Arizona Board of Regents announced the agreement on Wednesday after a legislative committee approved it on Tuesday, 18 Apr 2010.

The cases stem from blood samples taken from tribal members for diabetes research in the 1990s. ASU researchers also used the blood
samples for research into schizophrenia, inbreeding and ancient population migration without their subjects’ consent. Legal experts said that the rights of research subjects can be violated when they are not fully informed about how their DNA might be used.

The settlement includes an undisclosed payment to 41 plaintiffs and the return of all the blood samples to the tribe. It also includes a partnership between the tribe and ASU to build a new health clinic and high school in the isolated village in a gorge off the Grand Canyon.

Please contact the IRB Secretariat at 6516 4311 or 6516 7359 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.

Visit our website: http://www.nus.edu.sg/irb/