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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STREAM-LINING IRB REVIEW FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH IN SINGAPORE

NUS-IRB is pleased to announce the establishment of 2 Cooperative Agreements with the NHG Domain Specific Review Boards (NHG DSRB) and the SingHealth Centralized Institutional Review Boards (SHS CIRB).

These Cooperative Agreements established IRB review procedures for collaborative research involving the respective institutions. With these Agreements in place, the NUS-IRB will accept the decisions from both the NHG DSRB and the SHS CIRB and vice versa on research protocols that require ethics review.

Research projects that are reviewed under these cooperative agreements will reduce the need for duplicate ethics review while ensuring that the rights, safety and welfare of human research participants are protected. To researchers, this means NO more duplicate submissions. It will also shorten the time it takes to obtain ethics approval since they no longer need to make separate submissions to different institutions.

1. National Healthcare Group Domain Specific Review Boards (NHG-DSRB)

The NUS-IRB and NHG-DSRB first entered into this Cooperative Agreement in October 2005. This Agreement has been recently amended and renewed for a further 5 years. In addition to collaborative research with the existing NHG institutions, this Agreement also extends to researchers and staff of the National University Health System (NUHS), Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) and Alexandra Hospital (AH).

2. Singapore Health Services Centralized Institutional Review Boards (SHS-CIRB)

Following the successful cooperative model established with NHG-DSRB, the NUS-IRB has also worked relentlessly towards this common, shared goal with the SHS. This Agreement will extend to the 3 hospitals, 5 specialty centres and 9 polyclinics under the SHS’s purview. The effective date of the Agreement is 20 October 2010 for a period of 5 years.
**Triaging Process**

As this Agreement covers collaborative research across all NUS schools and faculties, a triaging mechanism will aid in deciding which research protocols will be reviewed by which Board/IRB (please refer to attached flowchart). Please note that the final determination shall rest with the Chairman of the respective Boards.

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.

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**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.