

OHSU Integrity Programs Declared Best again, take next steps

The Environmental Health & Radiation Services Program (EHRS) passed a comprehensive inspection by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) with flying colors a few weeks ago. Inspectors commented that OHSU has one of the best programs in the country. That echoes results from last September, when the triennial Joint Commission Accreditation Survey's review noted that OHSU's program was the best that was ever seen.

The EHRS results add to a mounting tradition of OHSU's Integrity Office Programs receiving accolades from national agencies and organizations.

In 2007, the OHSU Animal Research Protection Program was awarded continued full accreditation from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) for Central, Waterfront, and West Campuses. (The West Campus has Emeritus status because of its years of continued accreditation.) And in 2005, a Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in-depth review declared the Integrity Programs at OHSU "world class."

Green: the next frontier

Rather than rest on its laurels, the Integrity Office has taken conscientious steps to diminish its carbon footprint in the belief that even small changes can help make a difference. These new policies, procedures, and processes not only reduce paper use, but increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness as well.

Electronic research review

In 2004 the Research Integrity Office (ORIO) implemented the Electronic Institutional Review Board (eIRB). Today, any researcher who submits a study for review by the Institutional Review Board completes the process electronically and far more expeditiously than would be possible with paper. The IRB is now implementing a fully electronic review method for IRB members by using flash drives. The ultimate goal is to create a web site where members can review materials.

Electronic animal-care review

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is moving toward a paperless system with the April launch of eIACUC. This system is similar to the eIRB and aims for a completely paperless submission and review system by May 2009.

Conflict of Interest/Outside Activities (CoI)

In June 2006, the Research Integrity Office launched an electronic Conflict of Interest (CoI) module in Big Brain. The online CoI module shortens disclosure, review, and approval of these forms by several weeks. Most importantly, this online disclosure form eliminates the use of paper.

Conflict of Interest in Research (CoIR)

The CoIR Management System, deployed in 2006, implements an electronic disclosure of research-related conflicts of interest. This system saves time and paper, allowing the ORIO staff quick and easy access to important information.

Code of Conduct

In January, the Integrity Office eliminated the considerable cost of printing the Code of Conduct. In its place, a brochure will be distributed during New Employee Orientation. The brochure contains information about the Integrity Office, Code of Conduct principles, guidelines about how to report a concern, and information on accessing the complete Code online. Employees who do not attend New Employee Orientation will receive an email. This new delivery process saves reams of paper and results in a 78% cost savings.