BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES
• Research within the field of surgical education has been expanding rapidly in order to guide future curricula.
• Educational studies often require minimal IRB oversight.
• Concern regarding issues of informed consent and use of educational data for alternative purposes.
• Our aim of this study was to assess the concerns regarding residents as research subjects within surgical education research.

METHODS
• Anonymous survey of 85 general surgery residents at OHSU to assess their opinions on educational research.
• Study was approved by the IRB and subjects were provided with information and opt-out sheets.
• Five multiple choice questions assessing the comfort level of the resident with certain situations.
• One open ended question pertaining to any specific concerns that the resident had regarding surgical education research.

RESULTS
• Of 85 residents, 43% responded.
• Sixty percent were junior residents.
• Approximately 76% felt that education research was important and that they should participate in this research.
• If a faculty member conducted the study, 18% would feel coerced to participate.
• Twenty-one percent would feel uncomfortable refusing to participate.
• The majority, 81%, felt uncomfortable with a peer viewing their identifiable educational records.
• A sizeable minority, 24% were uncomfortable with a peer viewing their de-identified educational records.
• The majority felt comfortable with their operative logs and feedback forms being analyzed (58-65%).
• Approximately 46% agreed that residents need special protections when asked to serve as subjects.

IMPACT & EFFECTIVENESS
• Surgical residents believe that educational research is important but value protection of their educational records.
• Researchers should be cognizant of the unintended consequences of education research on resident autonomy and confidentiality.
• Development of protocols to protect residents as research subjects should be pursued and warrant further studies

REFERENCES: