

Assessments of Calendar Year 2019 newly-implemented HRPP/IRB Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Activities

Assessment of Today@Brown Recruitment Offering

In February 2019, the HRPP announced the availability of using **Today@Brown** for certain types of human subjects research recruitment. The Office of Research Integrity partnered with University Communications to provide this new resource to the research community, first piloting this offering for Full Board and Expedited submissions, and subsequently expanding it to include Exempt studies. Solicitations through Today@Brown for human subjects research recruitment are permitted for Brown University research faculty if the study is supported by sponsored funding and has Brown IRB/HRPP approval to use this recruitment procedure.

As of November 2019, sixteen protocols (14 PIs) had been approved by the IRB to advertise their studies in Today@Brown. A brief survey was emailed to the fourteen PIs asking them to evaluate the effectiveness of this recruitment method. As of 12/6/19 we received 12 survey responses (86%).

84 percent of respondents indicated that there “Has...been a measurable impact on participant recruitment since using "Today@Brown?"

Qualitative feedback received from the respondents was also very positive. A few examples are noted:

“We have used Today@Brown once and it has been a highly effective recruitment method thus far.”

“We've gotten a great number of responses compared to other recruitment methods!”

“We have had a strong response from potential participants after advertising our project on Today@Brown.”

This feedback helps to confirm that, to date, this appears to be a very effective recruitment method for studies which have been eligible to use it. We will continue to monitor this recruitment procedure and perhaps consider expanding the criteria in the future, allowing more studies to take advantage of this recruitment method.

New Investigator Onboarding Program

In May 2019, the QA/QI program implemented a new onboarding offering for new faculty conducting human subjects research and their support staff. These one-on-one, in-person (and remote via phone or Zoom) on-boarding sessions provide hands-on orientation to the HRPP's/IRB's website, forms, processes and policies. The goal is to facilitate a more efficient

and timely IRB application review and approval process. We are assessing the combined impact of this offering and other internal procedures relative to the IRB application and review process in the first quarter of 2020. Currently we are providing a summary of research community feedback on the sessions themselves.

Overall, these sessions have been very well-received. We surveyed attendees asking them “What was the most relevant and helpful parts of the session?” Below is a sampling of responses:

“I found the session was very helpful. And I had several IRB-related questions that are specific to my research and they all were kindly answered.”

“This session should be offered as part of the overall orientation for new faculty. Christiana was great!”

“Getting a better understanding of IRB processes at Brown.”

The onboarding sessions will continue to be offered to all new faculty and their support staff. We encourage all departments, schools, centers and institutes to consider adding information about this new investigator onboarding program to new faculty onboarding materials and orientation sessions.