



Human Subjects Newsletter

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Human Subjects Protection Program “Aces” Accreditation Site Visit...*Final Exam Coming Up.*

The much anticipated site visit by the accrediting body, AAHRPP, (3/21-3/23) was a welcome success. The months of logistical planning and education paid off handsomely. The machinery and efficiency of the three day, 60+ interviewee, five site visitor, and two campus review was “the best site” the review team had ever seen.

The site visit team praised USC's use of students as both mentors and IRB members, as well as the extensive and unique educational materials, programs, and varied communication methods. Site reviewers were also impressed with the interview participants' knowledge, commitment, and conduct of human subjects research. All interviewees were caring, thoughtful folks who really appeared to “do USC proud.”

The formal written report from AAHRPP is yet to come and there will be a USC response required within 30 days of receipt. Currently the OPRS is working to fix findings that were mentioned by AAHRPP at the 3/23 closeout session. None of the findings appeared to be major; all are very “fixable” through a change or written plan. This great outcome results from the OPRS' three year effort to create an outstanding HSPP (Human Subjects Protection Program).

USC will be notified of its accreditation status after the June 2007 AAHRPP Council Meeting where it is hoped that USC will be granted the top tier accreditation level—“Full Accreditation”.

Please stay tuned as we will keep you apprised of any news or updates.

The OPRS thanks the following individuals for their help in making the site visit a success:

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*AAHRPP—Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs