



iStar

August 3, 2009

Dear iStar users,

iStar will be unavailable this weekend (Aug. 8 & 9) due to upgrades. Changes made to the system following 9pm on Friday through Sunday may not be retained. For this reason, we suggest that you plan your work in the system accordingly. We are pleased to offer a number of enhancements that will help to make iStar more easily navigable and applications simpler to complete.

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE:

For any application that has NOT yet been submitted, please ensure that question 1.4 (IRBs you are requesting review from) has ONLY ONE IRB selected. From next week forward, iStar will only allow you to select one IRB. This is because studies involving more than one IRB are covered by a cooperative agreement that makes initial submission to both IRBs unnecessary.

**Some of the more significant changes are summarized below:**

Copy Study: iStar will allow you to copy any study to make a new pre-submission study with the data from the old study. We have had a number of people ask for this functionality, and we are pleased to make it available to everyone.

Personnel in iStar: with the update, there will be only one place to put all the study personnel (thereby eliminating the need to put people in twice). This one question will cover PIs, Co-Is, study contacts, and all other study personnel. It also has a much improved method of showing human subjects certification, and included GCP certifications. There will also be a set of standard roles to choose from for study personnel.

Study questions: we have also altered many of the questions on the main study application for clarity and completeness. In addition, we have streamlined the questions asked so that there are fewer irrelevant questions (given answers to questions earlier in the application). The guidance has also been updated so that most questions now have explanations to help you answer them, if needed.

Amendment link: On a study with an open amendment, the link to create a new amendment will change to a link that takes you to that open amendment. Many people were unhappy with the way that the system (which only allows you to have one amendment open on a study at a time) would allow you to get to the first page of another amendment, only to tell you when you moved to the next page that an amendment is already open and thus you can't start a new one. Instead, the system will automatically route you to the open amendment.

In addition, we have altered many message templates, many functions for the IRB have been improved, and a number of bugs brought to our attention have been fixed.

As usual, we greatly appreciate your feedback, suggestions, and of course, patience.

Thank you—The iStar development team