

“We heard you”...10 Fixes Resulting from the 2009 IRB Survey

1.	<p><i>“Why do I have to submit identical IRB applications to both the USC IRB and the CHLA CCI for one study? This is time consuming and each IRB may have different expectations.”</i></p> <p>... A collaborative review process is being implemented that will obviate the need for dual review. A written agreement between the two institutions will layout the policies and procedures for this.</p>
2.	<p><i>“The iStar application guidance buttons currently provide no helpful information.”</i></p> <p>... Guidance has been written for each question in the initial iStar application to describe what the answer being sought. This will be available in July 2009.</p>
3.	<p><i>“The online system seems to be getting better, but there are many times that the questions on iStar seems duplicative, unclearly worded, or I don't know why they are being asked.”</i></p> <p>... The iStar Development team has been working to address these issues. Changes have will appear in the July 2009 iStar updated application.</p>
4.	<p><i>“There needs to be a variety of human subjects education sessions. I have only seen one offered, over and over again.”</i></p> <p>... The monthly human subjects education sessions are purposefully and regularly offered as introductory courses. The OPRS has a variety of advanced human subjects education materials available on the website: http://www.usc.edu/admin/provost/oprs/training/brochures.html. CITI also has advanced courses for Good Clinical Practice (GCP), Human Subjects Research, and the Responsibility in the Conduct of Research (RCR).</p>
5.	<p><i>“IRB needs to make a better presence on campus. A lot of students think of IRB as this mystical power house that may hold some students back from going through IRB for research or papers.”</i></p> <p>... The OPRS and the IRB continue to offer schools and departments the opportunity for human subjects education sessions. Please invite us to your department or school. The IRB Student Mentor is available to meet with students and provide support on the IRB process. IRB Student Mentor: http://www.usc.edu/admin/provost/oprs/research/mentor.html</p>

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6.	<p><i>“May I suggest training sessions and refresher courses for those who have not used the iStar system in awhile?”</i></p> <p>... It is our goal to offer hands on iStar training at least once per semester on each campus. Hands on iStar training has been well attended this year so we will continue to offer it at least one timer per semester.</p>
7.	<p><i>“The CITI website is hard to navigate”</i></p> <p>... CITI is a purchased product from the University of Miami, and the University of Miami CITI team is in the process of improving the website for aesthetics and navigability.</p>
8.	<p><i>“If you are a student and need faculty support it is difficult if your adviser is older and not comfortable with computers. Getting my adviser to even get an iStar login took forever!”</i></p> <p>... A Faculty Advisor brochure was created to aid FAs and students in this role. It includes information on how to create an iStar account, how to review the student's application, and whom to contact if Faculty needs help. It is available on the web and has been distributed to Faculty Advisors listed in iStar. Provide a copy to your Faculty Advisor: <u>Are You a Faculty Advisor? The ABCs of Human Subjects Responsibilities</u></p>
9.	<p><i>“iStar system glitches impede completing my application and communicating with the IRB.”</i></p> <p>... The iStar servers have been upgraded and moved to a location maintained by HSC Information Technology Services.</p>
10.	<p><i>“The iStar application should have links to informed consent templates and other forms right where you are supposed to complete them throughout the application rather than going to the OPRS/IRB websites.”</i></p> <p>... The updated iStar application will provide hyperlinks to needed informed consent templates.</p>

We are open to any suggestions at any time. Please write or call: oprs@usc.edu or (213)-821-1154

Thank you!

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