

CTSI Coordinator Connect

A product of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) at the University of Pittsburgh



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RESEARCH RESOURCES |

Office For Human Research Protections (OHRP) Free Participant Brochures

Community members without previous exposure may find the idea of research participation intimidating. Phrases like “I don’t want to be a guinea pig” or “I don’t want you to experiment on me” are familiar to any researcher who has spent time trying to recruit participants from the general public. OHRP has designed a series of brochures that help demystify research and encourage thoughtful consideration of potential participation. These brochures are free and available to download from the [OHRP website](#). The series includes:

Learn About Research Participation, an easy-to-read diagram which explains how research works and discusses the importance of the partnership between participants and researchers. It also highlights examples of areas where research has made improvements to public health.

Questions to Ask When Thinking About Joining a Research Study, a brochure which provides participants with a checklist of considerations that are helpful in making a thoughtful choice about whether or not to engage in a research study, like risks and benefits, purpose of the research, potential financial implications, privacy and confidentiality concerns, and what procedures are involved.

Protecting Research Volunteers, a colorful infographic that illustrates the regulations governing research and the various entities that have oversight, like OHRP, the Food and Drug Administration, and local Institutional Review Boards. This brochure explains how these entities help protect the public from harm in the research setting.

Informational Resources Flyer, a flyer that catalogues an online collection of resources to help participants understand more about what research is and what is involved in research participation. This flyer includes a QR code that links directly to the resource library, where information in the form of infographics and educational videos are available. The resource library is designed to empower potential participants to make informed choices about study enrollment.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[CTSI’s Research Initiative for Special Populations \(CRISP\) Pilot Awards](#)

CTSI is now accepting applications for the 2022 CRISP funding cycle. CRISP offers campus investigators up to \$25,000 in funding to support research initiatives that work with groups that are frequently underrepresented in research. For the 2022 competition, applications that demonstrate meaningful integration of a community ambassador into the research team may be eligible for an additional \$5,000 in bonus funding to support the ambassador position. A meaningful partnership or collaboration would include demonstration of contribution to the research project from inception to implementation as a team member providing unique insight into the special population of interest.

[Improving Postpartum Maternal Outcomes for Populations Experiencing Disparities](#)

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) seeks to fund large randomized controlled trials and/or observational studies comparing methods to improve early detection of and prompt care for complications up to six weeks postpartum for underserved groups who are more likely to experience health disparities, including Black, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN), Hispanic, rural, and low socioeconomic status (SES) populations.

[Laboratories to Optimize Digital Health](#)

The National Institute of Mental Health seeks applications for innovative research projects to test strategies to increase the reach, efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of digital mental health interventions which may impact mental health outcomes, including suicide behaviors and serious mental illness. It is expected that the proposed digital mental health platforms will be well established, provide evidence-based interventions and have a substantial existing user base.

CTSI UPDATES | Making an IMPaCT

At CTSI, we use “IMPaCT” to mean the positive effect of research on society, including its effects on healthcare delivery, financing and policy, and ultimately on the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Even after we have envisioned how a research finding will impact society, we often run into barriers and delays when attempting to move it into the real world. CTSI has created the IMPaCT Core to accelerate this movement. CTSI can enhance your research impact by:

- Assisting in the selection of implementation frameworks and outcomes that fit your aims and objectives
- Designing strategies to promote the adoption and sustainment of evidence-based interventions
- Planning Needs Assessments with an eye to long-term relevance
- Providing tools to support ongoing evaluation
- Refining implementation-related elements of grant applications
- Integrating stakeholders into each step of the research process
- Integrating Human-Centered Design methods into a study plan
- Providing facilitator support for implementation research and Dissemination & Implementation science projects
- Providing pilot funding for innovative Dissemination and Implementation-focused projects
- Providing training in Dissemination and Implementation Science and Quality Improvement

To find out more about how to make an IMPaCT, email CTSI@pitt.edu, and visit our [website](#).

REGULATORY NOTES | PittPRO Electronic Data Management Section Recently Revised

The University of Pittsburgh Human Research Protection Office (HRPO) recently announced updates to the Electronic Data Management page of PittPRO protocols. Two questions have been modified and one added to address collection of anonymous, restricted, and sensitive data to help determine whether a manual data review is needed:

1. Will only anonymous data be collected (select NO if identifiers will be recorded at anytime during the conduct of the study)?
2. During this study, will restricted data as defined by the University’s Data Risk Classification matrix (<https://www.technology.pitt.edu/security/data-risk-classification-and-compliance>) be processed, stored, or transmitted?
3. During this study, will sensitive data (<https://www.hrpo.pitt.edu/electronic-data-security>) be collected where disclosure of identifying information could have adverse consequences for subjects or damage their financial standing, employability, insurability, educational advancement, reputation or place them at risk for criminal or civil liability?

If you have an action in progress, these questions will need to be answered prior to submission, and you may receive an error message if you fail to make updates. Click the "hide/show errors" link to be directed to the questions that need to be addressed. HRPO and Pitt Information Technology have clear guidance to help. **Please visit the HRPO website and review the full [announcement](#).**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, May 23 | noon to 1 p.m.

[Getting Started With Research Metrics](#)

Presented by the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library
System
Virtual event

Thursday, June 2 | noon to 1 p.m.

[Deconstruct Your Clinical Trial to Plan a Positive Outcome: Effective Planning and Communication Strategies](#)

Presented by the Association of Clinical Research Professionals
(ACRP)
Virtual event

Thursday, June 9 | 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

[University of Pittsburgh Department of Psychiatry Annual Research Day](#)

Presented by the University of Pittsburgh Department of Psychiatry
Soldiers and Sailors Hall/The University Club

Tuesday, June 21 | 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

[Introduction to Research Data Management](#)

Presented by the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Library
System
Virtual Event

Recorded Webinar

[Straight Talk: Patient Perspective on Clinical Trial Participation](#)

Presented by the Center for Information and Study on Clinical Research Participation, Inc. (CISCRP)

DEAR CTSI,

Question: Our research team is in the process of planning an online survey study. We have heard that some studies have had problems with fraud - either one person submitting multiple surveys, or bots responding to surveys. Are there any tips for avoiding fraudulent responses?

Answer: Online distribution of surveys is a convenient way to sample a large number of people, but unfortunately does come with risk of fraud that creates bad/unusable data. Some tips for avoiding fraud include:

- Checking to be sure you are not receiving multiple responses in a suspiciously short period of time.
- Eliminating compensation. While this does decrease the attractiveness of participation for some potential subjects, it also greatly reduces the possibility of fraud, which is mostly financially motivated.
- Sending unique survey links to each individual participant and using a two step survey process: 1) use a study advertisement that leads to a survey that only collects contact information 2) after the first survey response is vetted by the study team, a second unique survey link is sent to participant. Links that can only be used once and can't be shared decrease the chance for fraud.
- Add a speed check. Automated speed checks can remove responses that take the respondent less than 1/3 of the median response time, as this length of time to respond may indicate bot activity.

For more information on this topic, check out [Online Screener and Survey Participants: the Good, the Bad, and the Rogue](#), a recorded webinar sponsored by the Trial Innovation Network.

QUESTIONS FOR US?

We'd love to hear from you:
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