

Message from the Committee

Over the course of the last year, it has been my privilege to work with the members of the Science and Research Advisory Group (SRAG). I am continually impressed with the minds of this group and their commitment to developing resources that will be valuable tools to all new practitioners as we begin performing research for residency projects, answering clinical practice problems, and as we embark upon our new careers. This year, in particular, the SRAG members developed two documents to be placed on the website. The first is an Institutional Review Board (IRB) tip sheet, and the second is Frequently Asked Questions About Research.



The IRB tip sheet is designed to give succinct and practical information about the board itself, as well as proposal submission. It reviews the structure and responsibilities of an IRB and describes types of reviews. The tip sheet clarifies which types of studies are exempt from continuing review under federal regulations, which proposals can be expedited and which require full board review. While the tip sheet acknowledges that the specific requirements of an IRB proposal are institution specific, it does offer some guidance as to the basic outline of a research protocol. The SRAG members also felt it would be valuable to include required elements of a research consent form. This document will serve as a great starting point for someone who has had very little interaction with an IRB.

The other document members of the group have been working on is a Frequently Asked Questions About Research resource. This is an effort to provide answers to commonly asked questions in order to facilitate the commission of research for new practitioners. It addresses the steps and timelines involved in planning a research project, the best way to formulate research questions, identifying funding resources, how to format a grant proposal, and data collection software advantages and disadvantages. It even suggests good references for understanding statistics, the bane of the new researcher. The hope is to have this document on the web with links to other resources that can provide more in-depth information.

The members of the SRAG are aware that research has become a fundamental component of the evidenced-based practice of pharmacy today. It is, therefore, necessary for new practitioners to become familiar with research basics. It is our hope that the two resources developed by this group will be utilized by new practitioners as they become comfortable with how research fits into their careers.

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Executive Committee Member, New Practitioners Forum 2008-09