

Research Ethics Newsletter: 2009 number 3

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Comings & Goings

- For those of you who may have missed my November 23rd announcement, please join me in welcoming Lorraine Trischuk as our new Research Ethics Administrative Assistant. Lorraine began with Research Ethics on November 16, 2009 and before that worked for VIHA for 5 years; most recently with VIHA Mental Health & Addictions. Lorraine has extensive administrative and database experience and will be a great asset to the Research Ethics team. She is located in Room 304 and at telephone 250-370-8620.

Research Ethics Staff Offices: *all offices are located in the Memorial Pavilion, Royal Jubilee Hospital*

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REB process changes

With Lorraine's arrival, we have begun to review our office processes and assignment of duties. More information will follow as plans are finalized. In the meantime, Lorraine has assumed all routine administrative duties, triaging of incoming correspondence and general inquiries. Lorraine also continues to use email as the primary method for distributing correspondence.

The Year Ahead

We anticipate that 2010 will be a busy year for REBs. After several years of redrafting with public input, the 2nd Edition of the TriCouncil Policy Statement (TCPS) will be released soon. In addition, Health Canada is finalizing a standard for REBs that review clinical trials. Both these documents may require changes to our local procedures to ensure our compliance. You will be kept informed of any changes that will impact the research community.

The Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards (CAREB) has also been busy over the last year preparing a position paper on serious adverse event (SAE) reporting. Once finalized, we will consider adopting its recommendations and implement changes locally. Again, you will be kept informed of any changes that will impact the research community.

Other highlights

Beginning in early February, Lorraine will be assuming responsibility for updating the REB website. Thanks to Beth Aldred-Portman for all your help with this over the years!

In addition to regular updating, Lorraine will be reorganizing the website to make it more user-friendly. Stay tuned for more updates!

And some other projects that we are working on.....

- a new look for the newsletter
- an amendment request template
- a clinical trials consent form template
- guidance on serious adverse event reporting
- revisions to the HREB application form along with supporting guidance