

Rhode Island Department of Health
Institutional Review Board (IRB)
Minutes of Meeting
August 5, 2004

In attendance: John Fulton, Ewa King (Alternate), Joann Lindenmayer (Chair), Bruce McIntyre, Elizabeth Shelov, (Alternate) Vivian Weisman, Amy Zimmerman-Levitan (Alternate).

Absent but excused: Utpala Bandy, Jay Buechner, Leonard Green (Vice-Chair), Sharon Marable (Alternate), Sally Zierler

1. Update on HEALTH IRB #2004-08: “Mercury, Lead and Cadmium Levels in Umbilical Cord Blood,” submitted by Dr. Gregory Hayes and Mike DiMatteo.

This proposal was received by the Chair on July 29, 2004 and could not be scheduled for formal review at today’s meeting. The investigators do not have a hard and fast deadline for review of the proposal but would like to begin work in October. In light of that, the Chair assigned Vivian Weisman to be primary reviewer, and Bruce McIntyre to be secondary reviewer, and advised them to discuss any major issues with the Principal Investigator within the next two weeks so that the investigators could, if necessary, clarify/revise the proposal in time to resubmit it for the September Board meeting. John Fulton and Ewa King noted that they had both had some involvement with the preparation of this proposal and would have to abstain from voting on it when it comes up for formal review.

2. Expedited review: HEALTH IRB #2004-04: “Interorganizational Relationships and Post-Surgical Cancer Care,” submitted by Dr. Meg Bourbonniere

The Chair informed the Board that this proposal was given expedited review and approved as submitted.

3. IRB WebPages

The Chair has finished revising, updating and reorganizing the IRB WebPages. Copies were distributed to Board members who were asked to make any final changes within a week, after which time the new WebPages will be posted on the HEALTH Website.

4. Open meetings regulations

The Chair informed the Board that it now operates under open meetings regulations. Agendas of meetings must be filed at least 48 hours prior to a meeting, and minutes of meetings must be filed no more than 35 days after a meeting. Filing occurs electronically with the Secretary of State’s office.

Because the IRB operates under open meetings regulations, the Board discussed concerns that researchers might have in the case of potentially proprietary information included in grant proposals that was a) discussed in a public meeting or 2) included in minutes of an open meeting. Concerns were expressed that open meetings regulations in Rhode Island might be in conflict with federal regulations regarding IRB operations. Bruce McIntyre agreed to look into the implications of the open meetings laws in Rhode Island and render an opinion to the Board within a week. The Chair will take that opinion and add appropriate information to the IRB WebPages so that researchers will know what to expect. Depending upon legal counsel’s findings, the Chair may consult CDC and/or the University of Rhode Island to see how these federal/state institutions deal with these potential conflicts.

5. New Business:

John Fulton noted that with the upcoming planned move of some HEALTH offices to Pawtucket, he anticipated being able to provide an office to the Chair of the IRB.

Joann Lindenmayer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Vivian Weisman, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board is September 2, 2004 at 9:30 AM, room 302.