CITI Training Coming to John Carroll

The John Carroll Institutional Review Board has selected the online CITI Program to provide ethics training for researchers conducting studies on human subjects. The CITI Program is widely used by large universities (such as Case Western Reserve and Cleveland State) and primarily undergraduate institutions (such as Baldwin Wallace and Xavier). The selected required courses are specific to the type of social, behavioral, and education research conducted on the John Carroll campus.

Timeline:

Late Spring 2012:
CITI training will be announced to the campus community. A local website will be available with additional information, including a FAQ list.

Summer 2012:
Our branded site will become active and tested.

Fall 2012:
CITI training will be available to campus constituents. Researchers will have one year to test the system and complete the modules before the requirement becomes mandatory.
Feedback will be solicited.

Fall 2013:
CITI training will be mandatory for students (and their faculty sponsors) and researchers conducting human subject research which falls under IRB jurisdiction.

1. What is CITI?

The Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) is a web-based training platform for research ethics that was founded in 2000 as a collaboration between the University of Miami and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Today, the CITI Program is used by more than 1500 institutions and organizations worldwide with 2.8 million people completing courses to date.

2. Why is CITI Training a good idea?

CITI training is the widely-respected standard at colleges and universities across the US. Modules are kept current by a team of qualified personnel. Faculty collaborating with researchers at other universities will be able to provide proof of training. Students continuing their education or research experience can list CITI training on their resume. Faculty may assign additional CITI modules to augment research-based courses.

3. Who will be required to take CITI training?

The John Carroll IRB has designated three user groups:

- Students (who are conducting no more than minimal risk projects).
- Researchers and sponsors of student projects (and students who are conducting higher than minimal risk projects).
- IRB members.

As of Fall 2013, anyone submitting an application to the IRB or who is included on one will be required to complete CITI training prior to application submission. A refresher course will be required after 3 years.

4. How long will the training take?

The basic course for researchers and IRB members will take about 4-6 hours to complete. Students conducting no more than minimal risk projects can complete the modules in their course in 3-4 hours. A short quiz follows most modules and a passing score of 85% will complete the module.

5. How does the CITI site work?

Users can access the CITI system from any Internet-connected device and can complete the course in as many sessions as needed. Certificates are available upon completion of the course. The IRB office will also have access to a list of users who have completed courses.

6. What else does CITI offer?

Courses for animal researchers, Responsible Conduct of Research training required for NSF-funded student researchers, NIH-required Conflict of Interest training, Health Information Privacy modules are also available.

Requirements:

Faculty researchers will be required to take the following 7 modules, plus 3 electives.

Basic Course:
- John Carroll University Introduction
- Belmont Report and CITI Course Introduction
- History and Ethical Principles
- Defining Research with Human Subjects
- The Regulations
- Assessing Risk *
- Informed Consent
- Privacy and Confidentiality*

Electives:
- Research with Prisoners
- Research with Children
- Research in Public Elementary & Secondary Schools
- International Research
- Internet Research
- Research and HIPAA Privacy Protections
- Vulnerable Subjects: Research Involving Workers/Employees
- Conflicts of Interest
- Students in Research*‡

IRB members will take the same modules and number of electives as faculty researchers plus the IRB Member Module.

‡ **Faculty sponsors** will be required to take "Students in Research," replacing one elective.

*Students conducting minimal risk projects** will take 4 required modules plus one elective.