A new version of the IRB application has been loaded to iRIS. Changes include:

- Added new panel called “Subject Contact Question” to determine if a study is exempt
- Revised questions for exemption categories 1, 2, and 3; screening and recruitment questions are now included on this panel
- Combined the panels for exemption categories 4a and 4b; revised questions
- Revised questions on the “Screening and Recruitment” panel
- Revised questions on the “Study Procedures” panel
- Removed the “Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table” for all CRU studies
- Additional IRBs added to “Permission to Rely on other IRBs” panel (BRANY, Quorum, and WIRB/WCG IRBs)
- Revised wording and questions on “Clinical Trials Registration” panel

How will this affect my IRB application?
The implementation of this new version only impacts applications that are in the process of being created or updated. If your study is already approved, this will not affect you.

When you open an application to view or edit it, a pop-up box will alert you that a new version of the application has been loaded in iRIS, and it will give you the option to "Convert to New Form Version." A screen shot of this pop-up box is available in iRIS under the “New and Important” section of “Operating Procedures” under “My Assistant.”

Should I convert to the new version?
If you have already submitted your application, then it is recommended that you refrain from converting to the new version and close the pop-up box by clicking the red “X” in the upper right-hand corner. On the other hand, if you are in the initial copy of your application and you have not yet submitted, then it is recommended that you convert to the new version.

How do I convert to the new version?
To convert to the new version of the application, click on the button “Convert to New Form Version.” The system will then require you to click through the application to merge the data from your initial application with the new version. Once you do this, it will appear that you have lost pages of your application; however, this is not the case—the pages will reappear as you navigate through the application by pressing the “Save and Continue” button. When you reach any of the new questions, you will be prompted to answer them.

If you have questions, please contact Barbara Legate at 713-500-3470.
The UTHealth CCTS Biobank profile article, “The Biobank at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston,” was recently published in *Biopreservation and Biobanking*. The paper describes the Biobank’s federated model of sharing by which contributing investigators maintain ownership of their samples and related data until they approve collaborative sharing with an IRB-approved requesting investigator. All samples and data in the CCTS Biobank have been de-identified and previously consented by study participants for secondary use. The customized, online system known as SLED (Sample Location and Enhanced Distribution), which was developed by the UTHealth CCTS Biobank and Biomedical Informatics groups for investigators to query and submit requests for samples and data, was also highlighted. The CCTS Biobank’s ultimate goal is to promote translational research by facilitating sharing of biospecimens and related clinical and genomic data.

*For further information, visit the UTHealth CCTS Biobank website at:* [https://www.uth.edu/biobank/](https://www.uth.edu/biobank/).

*To query samples and to submit a request for samples and/or data, use SLED, which can be found on the website or directly at:* [https://biobank.uth.tmc.edu/BBCIS/](https://biobank.uth.tmc.edu/BBCIS/).

*Or, contact the CCTS Biobank Program Coordinator, Mary Hall, at:* [UTHealth_CCTS_Biobank@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:UTHealth_CCTS_Biobank@uth.tmc.edu) or 713-500-2092.

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**Upcoming Certification Testing Dates**

CCRP certification: For those of you interested in becoming a Certified Clinical Research Professional, the next test date in Houston, TX is at The Methodist Hospital on November 7, 2015 with a registration deadline of September 26, 2015. You can find more information [here](https://www.socra.org/). 

CCRC certification: The next exam dates for certification as a Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) are in February and March of 2015. Applications are due by February 1, 2016, and you can find more information [here](https://www.acrp.org/).
At July’s Research Coordinator Forum, Dr. Robert Emery, Vice President for Safety, Health, Environment, and Risk Management and professor of Occupational Health at UTHealth’s School of Public Health, presented a seminar titled “What the Research Community Needs to Know about Global Health Security.” As always, his talk was highly entertaining, as well as informative.

As a memento for those who attended, he has shared the group selfie (would that be a groupie?) that he took with his very own selfie stick. Enjoy!
Upcoming Training

**Study Coordinator Monthly Forum**
**Objective:** Discuss best practices in clinical research management and network with administrators and staff from various research groups within UTHealth.
**Date:** September 22, 2015
**Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
**Location:** MSB 2.135
*Lunch provided for the first 40 participants.* Registration is not required. Information [here](#).

**Clinical Research Education Program**
**Objective:** Promote excellence in clinical trial management for research nurses, study coordinators, and other research staff. This three day program focuses on clinical trial management, good clinical practice, and efficient trial conduct.
**Date:** October 20 – 22, 2015
**Time:** 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
**Location:** Cooley University Life Center
Register [here](#).

**iRIS Training**
**Objective:** Provide hands-on training in the iRIS system, which is used to submit research protocols to UTHealth’s CPHS and AWC.
**Date:** September 3, 2015
**Time:** 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
**Location:** UCT 1160
*Parking will be validated.* Registration is required. Register [here](#).

**Center for Clinical Investigation (CCI) Meeting**
**Objective:** Aid clinical research and reduce the burden on individual teams by identifying best practices, streamlining clinical research management processes, and providing education, training, and support to clinical research staff.
**Date:** September 14, 2015
**Time:** 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
**Location:** UTPB 1100.55
Registration is not required.

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**About the Clinical Trials Resource Center**

It is the mission of the Clinical Trials Resource Center (CTRC) to provide a single portal of expertise and best practices for study teams in order to facilitate efficient, compliant, and ethical study conduct and management. The CTRC office is located at UCT 790. Please visit [https://www.uth.edu/ctrc/](https://www.uth.edu/ctrc/) for more information.

*Sujatha Sridhar, MBBS, MCE*
Director
713-500-3622

**Catrina VanAllen, MBA, CCRP**
Senior Research Compliance Specialist
713-500-3578

**Elizabeth Massey Gendel, PhD**
Regulatory Specialist
713-500-3587

**Ngozi Okafor, PhD, MPH**
Graduate Assistant
713-500-3551

**Rosemary Tran, BS**
Graduate Assistant
713-500-3551