

**UCLA-RAND Joint Institutional Review Board Deferral Mechanism
for Health and Health Services Research**

The UCLA Vice Chancellor for Research office and the RAND Corporation are pleased to announce a new Institutional Review Board (IRB) deferral mechanism for research that falls within the scope of the September 2002 UCLA-RAND Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Health Services Research.

This mechanism stipulates that one institution—either UCLA or RAND, depending on scope of the research—will serve as the sole reviewing institution for health services and related research that previously would have required review at both institutions. This development is a major breakthrough in facilitating research across UCLA and RAND, in the spirit of furthering high-quality, collaborative research across institutions in an area of mutual strength.

Under the approved deferral mechanism, *UCLA will always serve as the sole reviewing institution for the following three types of research:*

- research involving human specimens and tissues
- research involving FDA approval
- research requiring UCLA HIPAA Privacy Board review (e.g., use of UCLA medical records or collection of data which will be added to UCLA medical records).

RAND will serve as the sole reviewing institution for all other types of research. RAND will have the option of deferring a review back to UCLA as the sole reviewing institution.

The deferral mechanism applies to new projects, as well as continuing review and addenda for existing projects. The expected start date of this mechanism is September 1, 2006.

Provided that the research is governed by the UCLA-RAND Memorandum of Understanding for Health Services Research, researchers will no longer have to apply to both institutions or coordinate reviews across UCLA and RAND.

It is up to investigators to learn about the mechanism and to request the deferral from the appropriate IRB. Both the parent MOU and the addendum describing the mechanism will be posted on the IRB Web sites of both institutions. The planning committee for this mechanism will be giving presentations in the early fall at both UCLA and RAND about the process and to answer questions. Until then, questions should be directed either to Director Judith Brookshire or Assistant Director Alison Orkin at the UCLA Office of Protection for Research Subjects at (310) 825-7122, or to Tora Bikson, chair of the Human Subjects Protection Committee at RAND at (310) 393-0411, ext 7227, and tora@rand.org.

A periodic review process for the deferral mechanism will help provide feedback to the institutions about the ways in which this mechanism facilitates research in our environment, and to make recommendations for further improvements.



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