



**BC Cancer Agency**

CARE & RESEARCH

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

University of British Columbia - BC Cancer Agency Research Ethics Board  
**UBC BCCA REB**

**UBC BCCA Research Ethics Board**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** July 1, 2009

**To:** Personnel who submit research ethics applications to the BCCA Research Ethics Board

**From:** George Browman, M.D., Chair, UBC BCCA Research Ethics Board

**Re: Change of Policy - Electronic Signatures on UBC BCCA REB Approval Certificates**

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Effective July 1, 2009, the UBC BCCA Research Ethics Board discontinued its practice of inserting the UBC BCCA REB Chair(s) digital signatures on REB Approval and Acknowledgment Certificates issued by the internet based Researcher Information Services System (RISe).

This was done for security reasons in order to forestall a possible misuse of the electronic signatures after a certificate is downloaded from the system (which is necessary in order for researchers to circulate these to their sponsors and other regulatory bodies).

There is an electronic audit trail within the secure on line RISe system, which effectively constitutes an "electronic signature" as proof that the approval or acknowledgement was granted by the appropriate person under the circumstances noted on the certificate.

In view of the internal electronic verification and security features of the RISe system and UBC IT security polices (which maintains the RISe system), the UBC REB's are confident that this approval process meets all regulatory requirements, including the [US FDA 21CFR part II](#)

Please forward this information to your sponsors if required.

If you have questions or concerns about this notice, please contact Bonnie Shields, Manager, UBC BCCA REB e-mail: [reb@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:reb@bccancer.bc.ca) or phone (604-877-6284)

Thank you for your attention  
George Browman, MD  
Chair, UBC BC Cancer Agency Research Ethics Board