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Provincial Health Services Authority

## ETHICS & ELEMENTS

BC CANCER

### OFFICE UPDATES

We are very pleased to introduce our new Research Ethics Director, **Jessica Gagliardi!** Jessica was previously one of the ethics Officers at BC Cancer and brings with her years of knowledge and expertise in research ethics practices. Congratulations Jessica!

### SHEILA

We would like to thank Sheila O'Donoghue who was the Interim Director during the transition of leadership. In her role, she led the initiation of multiple projects focusing on ethics education, translation of consent forms, race and ethnicity, as well as, QA/QI/Research project classification in collaboration with Quality Improvement & Performance.

### BRIANA

We are sad but extremely happy to announce the departure of Briana Chau. She has been accepted to UBC's undergraduate medical program and has moved on to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. We wish her the best of luck and are curious to see what specialization she studies. Maybe we will see her back at BC Cancer as an Oncologist?! See you in RISE!

## DOES MY PROJECT NEED AN REB APPROVAL?

When you feel unsure and doubtful about what type of approval(s) your project needs, assess how your project would be categorized. Does it fall under **research**, quality improvement (QI), or quality assurance (QA)? Knowing this will provide clarity on the what approvals you should seek prior to the project launch.

### How do I know if my project is research, QI, or QA?

The [TCPS 2 Article 2.1 and 2.5](#) explains what parameters should be looked for in determining the category of a project. A key differentiator is the scope – if the project scope falls within assessments of the performance and mandate of an organization, it is likely that the project qualifies as QI or QA. If the scope goes beyond the organization and has plans for external involvement and implications (e.g. provincially, nationally, or internationally), the project will not likely be QI or QA. Other important differentiators are risk to participants and the intended purpose of the project.

We recommend referring to [this guidance document](#) that was recently created in collaboration with the Quality Improvement & Performance team. As the responsibility lies with the parties involved in data collection to determine whether REB review is required, this document is intended to help with that decision-making. Read the descriptions carefully to see which type best fits your project, and then refer to the last column for required approvals.

### REB approvals are only required for research studies.

Only research projects require REB approvals. If a project has dual purposes and falls under both research and QA/QI, an REB approval as well as other operational/medical approvals must be sought.

### Be aware of misconceptions!

One of the misconceptions that we often encounter is that an REB approval is only required if there is an intent for publication of the results – not true! Findings of QA and QI projects are often published. As you cannot get REB approval retrospectively if you have any questions about where your projects fits, please get in touch with us ([reb@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:reb@bccancer.bc.ca))

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN RESEARCH

In June of this year the BC Government passed an [Anti-racism Data act](#) into law which compels public bodies to collect disaggregated data, including race-based data, to help identify discrimination, inequities and gaps in services provided by the Province.

The TCPS 2 (2018) states that research should be conducted in an inclusive and fair manner ([Article 4.1](#)) and race-based and ethnicity data can shed light on inequalities found in our health care systems, including many areas of research.

At BC Cancer, we have observed two key issues we wanted to address:

1. Demographic data is not consistently collected in a standardized format from research participants.
2. There is misinformation circulating within the research community that UBC research ethics boards do not allow the collection of race-based or ethnicity data.

Point 2 is relatively easily addressed. Simply put, TCPS 2 and UBC policy do not preclude the collection of race or ethnicity data. Spread the word. It is important to note that First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities have the constitutional right to sovereignty, which includes control over access and ownership of data. Meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities is needed in order to uphold these rights.

Point 1 is a bit more complicated. The UBC Behavioural REB already has a great [guidance](#) with a full discussion of ethical considerations around the collection of ethnicity and race data in research. However, our office wanted a more directive guidance that promotes the collection of demographic data in a standardized manner. To address this issue the BC Cancer Research Ethics office is working in collaboration with the Children's and Women's REB and UBC CREB on recommendations in a new guidance for researchers around the collection of race-based and ethnicity-based data.

### Further reading:

- Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI): [Race-based and Indigenous identity data](#)
- University of British Columbia: [EDI in research](#)
- BC's Office of Human Rights Commission report: [Disaggregated demographic data collection in British Columbia: The grandmother perspective:](#)
- BC's Building relationships with Indigenous peoples: [Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)
- [The First Nations Principles of OCAP®](#)



## NEWS AND EVENTS

- **Participate in our survey** – We released an anonymous survey on ‘**Ethics Education Needs.**’ If you work on human research projects at BC Cancer, please follow the link below to participate and for a chance to win a \$40 Amazon gift card! The survey is open until October 28th, 2022. [Click here to go to the survey](#)
- **Save the date** – We are on the planning committee of the upcoming Research Ethics BC’s event **Clinical Ethics Research Symposium 2022.** This symposium will be hosted virtually on November 3rd & 4th. Keep on eye on your inbox for the invitation email. Topics this year include:
  - ⇒ A.I. in clinical research
  - ⇒ Taking ethics from theory to practice
  - ⇒ Decreasing disparities and knowledge translation



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 "Have legal see if there's a way I can make my New Year's resolution retroactively."

## TIPS &amp; REMINDERS

REB cannot issue a retroactive ethics approval. Before starting your project, we highly suggest that you pay extra care to ensure that required ethics or other appropriate approvals are in place.

If you have any questions on whether your project needs an REB review, please contact the Research Ethics Office.

## IN-COMING AND OUT-GOING REB MEMBERS

## THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Dr. Sharlene Gill and Dr. Jim Rose who recently stepped down from the Research Ethics Board as a scientific reviewers. We appreciate your contributions and thoughtful reviews. We will miss you!

## WELCOME!

And, we'd like to introduce Dr. Matthew Chan, Radiation Oncologist, and Dr. Nicole Chau, Medical Oncologist, who have joined as a scientific reviewers. Welcome aboard!



## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!!

We are working a hybrid WFH/in-Office model.

Email us to set up a meeting!

[reb@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:reb@bccancer.bc.ca)