

IRB NEWSLETTER

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UNI's IRB News!

Welcome to this second issue of UNI's IRB News. Through this newsletter, our goal is to provide you with guidance, updates, and support in your research efforts and questions related to all things IRB! Visit the [Institutional Review Board Home Page](#) for the most updated IRB materials.

Does my Study need IRB Review?

We're so glad you asked! This is a very common question as PIs are considering studies and future publications. The short answer is...[it depends](#). If your study involves research with human subjects, it will require a certain level of IRB review.

The UNI IRB reviews all research with human subjects. There are three types of review: Exempt, Expedited, and Full Board.

Exempt & Expedited Reviews: These studies do not involve more than minimal risk. One or more experienced reviewers of the IRB committee will review the protocol and approve it or will refer it to the IRB for full review, if needed. Most studies reviewed by UNI's IRB are classified as exempt or expedited.

Full Board Review: Studies requiring a full board review are considered by all IRB committee members. In preparing for the full committee meeting, the Chair or other primary IRB reviewer may contact the investigator, co-investigators, other IRB members, or outside sources to ensure a thorough evaluation of risks and benefits of the proposed research. These protocols are considered monthly during the IRB's [regularly scheduled meeting](#).

There are studies that do not require IRB review. These include studies that do not involve "*human subjects and/or are not considered 'research.'*" In considering these studies, the IRB will strive to answer two key questions: **1) Is it Research?** [and](#) **2) Does it Involve Human Subjects?** Often, studies can fall into a gray area when attempting to answer these questions. It is always best to err on the side of caution and rely on your IRB to make this determination. Visit the [IRB website](#) for more guidance on this topic!

IN THIS EDITION

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Ethics and Informed Consent: The Legacy of Henrietta Lacks



It is helpful to be reminded...*WHY do we do what we do? Why* must my research be reviewed, even if it is minimal risk? There are many cases throughout history that have advanced the evolution of the IRB process and its value in protecting human subjects. Sometimes what feels reasonable can get lost in the rules and regulations.

An [article appearing on NPR](#) recently shared the life and legacy of Henrietta Lacks. If you are familiar with “HeLa” cells, these cells were taken from a patient, Henrietta Lacks, without her knowledge or consent during her terminal illness with ovarian cancer. Her cells were then replicated and used in countless medical studies over the past 60 years. While the contributions and value her life brought to the advancement of health and science is tremendous, the subsequent harm this caused her family and the overall ethical breach cannot be understated.

Her story reminds us of our ethical obligations in informed consent. It underscores the important role IRBs perform to protect people in research. Her story reminds us of the justice framework for research that is as important today as it was 60 years ago. For more guidance on the [informed consent process, please click here](#).

Human Subjects Training for Key Personnel

RSP offers certification for IRB training through an online course in Human Subjects Protections, hosted by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), based at the University of Miami. The program offers online courses that can be accessed by anyone affiliated with UNI. [This course fulfills the UNI IRB training requirement to participate in human subjects research.](#)

ATTENTION INVESTIGATORS...! **REPORTING YOUR ANNUAL IRB STUDY STATUS**

Principal Investigators with approved studies must report annually on the status of their studies, as OPEN or CLOSED. In the coming weeks, Investigators and Advisors to PIs will be sent a Google survey to report their annual study status. Formerly, this report was compiled by collecting email responses. This year the reporting format has changed to a google survey, and PIs will be expected to complete a survey for each study that is open. A list of open studies by PI will be provided to easily reference and report on study status.

This is a required report and should only take a few moments for you to complete. Because there are HUNDREDS of studies, please help your UNI IRB staff by reporting in a timely fashion. Also, if you are an advisor for a study, you will need to work with your student(s) to report the study status.

Please be on the lookout for an email coming soon!! Reach out to [Lisa Ahern](#), IRB Administrator, with any questions 273-6148.

WIND CAVE AND 7 UNI STUDENTS FEATURED AT IOWA SPACE GRANT SYMPOSIUM

Seven UNI students shared their poster presentations during the [Iowa Space Grant Student Research Symposium](#), held on April 4, 2022. The Iowa Space Grant Consortium works to "promote opportunities aligned with NASA's mission by stimulating research, education and outreach programs for all Iowans." Congratulations to these students for their impressive work through this Consortium, along with the faculty working alongside them as mentors and advisors. For more

information about each of the students, visit [RSP's Facebook Page](#) (and give us a "LIKE" while you're there!)



Pictured Above: UNI's Research Journey at Wind Cave: (left to right) Rowan McCarthy, Dr. Josh Sebree, Baylee Petersen, Will McNaughton

PANTHER RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: DR. NILDA RODRIGUEZ

Dr. Rodriguez was recently awarded a Capacity Building Grant to support her immunology research. She will examine differences in the immune response of males versus females at the cellular level. The protocol involves microscopic examination to track how fat accumulation affects infection in immune cells isolated from experimental animals. Funding through the Capacity Grant Project will assist her in preparing for an external grant opportunity to further advance this important work. This pilot study will contribute to understanding the cellular processes regulating health, disease and immune responses and is a continuation of the below publications.



"Macrophage cells play critical roles in health, disease, and immune responses. Accumulating evidence shows that macrophages derived from males and females differ in various immune functions. As such, inherent sex-dependent differences in macrophages could have major implications in susceptibility, morbidity, and mortality to numerous illnesses. Elucidation of the cellular mechanisms influencing disease in males versus females will facilitate the development of more tailored diagnostic tools and therapeutics." - Dr. Rodriguez

1. [Sex-Related Differences in Immune Response and Symptomatic Manifestations to Infection with Leishmania Species](#)
2. [Epidemiological and Experimental Evidence for Sex-Dependent Differences in the Outcome of Leishmania infantum Infection](#)
3. [Lipid Bodies Accumulation in Leishmania infantum-Infected C57BL/6 Macrophages](#)

You can learn more about Dr. Rodriguez's work at [UNI ScholarWorks](#) and [Google Scholar](#)

[SUGGEST RESEARCH TO HIGHLIGHT IN THE NEXT IRB NEWSLETTER](#)

Scholarly Publications and Featured Awards Newsletter

Rod Library and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs published its first edition of the [UNI Impact: Faculty/Staff Scholarly Publications & Featured Awards Newsletter](#). The newsletter “highlights scholarship, research, and other scholarly work produced by UNI faculty, students and staff.” Be sure to check it out!



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