

IRB ANNUAL SURVEY 2013

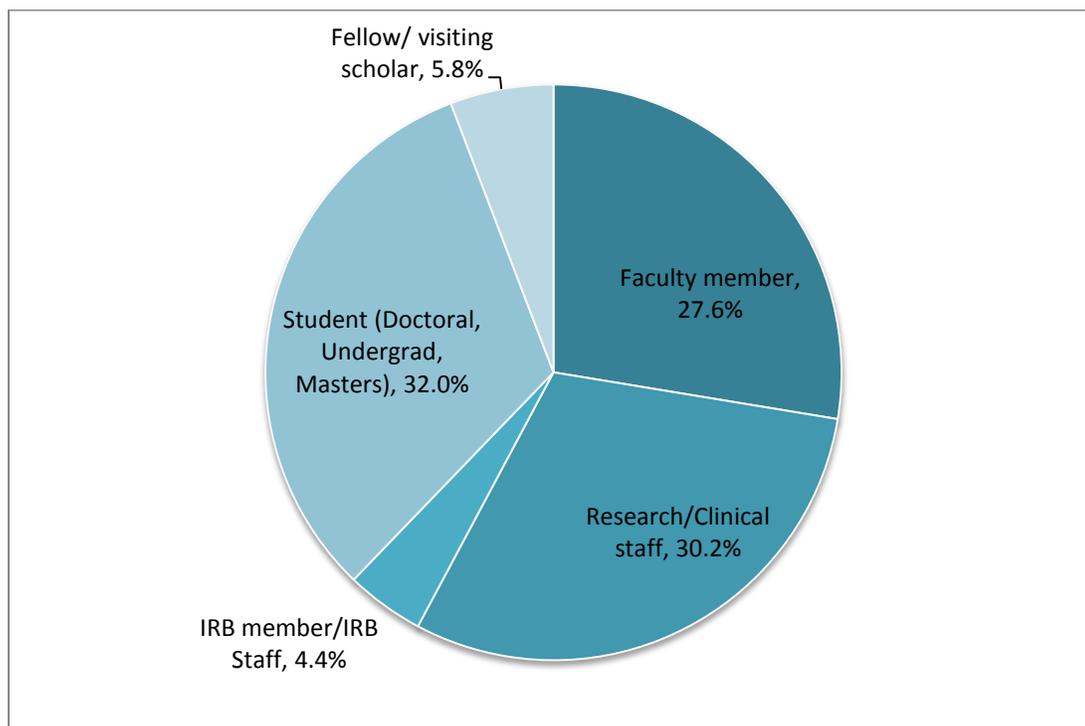
Summary Results

The Office for the Protection of Research Subjects (OPRS) conducts an annual survey to evaluate and improve the Human Subjects Protection Program (HSPP). Survey responses are used to develop improvements in the HSPP. The samples of responses below represent the most frequently noted issues and suggestions.

Demographics:



- Total respondents: 904
- Source of responses:
 - 56% Health Sciences Campus
 - 43% University Park Campus
- **Respondents**



Areas Rated Positively

- Knowledgeability of the IRB
- Turn-around of IRB approval
- Risk-assessments are reasonable
- IRB works with researchers when changes are required
- IRB provides adequate rationale when requesting change
- Changes to ISTAR (IRB application system)
- Experience with CITI online training courses
- IRB/OPRS website
- USC Human Subjects Research Newsletter
- The “Add/Drop Study Personnel” quick button makes the application user friendly.
- IRB administrators are very supportive, responsive and efficient in reviewing studies in a timely manner.
- Flex Policy is appropriate for those studies involving minimal amounts of risk which has made it easier and faster for approval.

Negative Comments

- Slow speed in turn-around of approved documents loses sponsors
- ISTAR guidance hasn't been updated in years, multiple sections of the application that either did not have any guidance whatsoever or simply had very limited information.
- Difficult to navigate IRB application and to access CITI training
- Review of studies has been inconsistent depending on reviewer
- Research involving children not always more than a minimal risk, but IRB views it as a full board review which is cumbersome and often unnecessary
- The amendment process is confusing, and seemingly requires more effort than is necessary to make relatively minimal changes
- Stop changing ISTAR... Its fine as it is, stop messing with it.

Actionable Suggestions

- Orientation for new clinical research staff
- Educational seminars on topics related to biobanking and informed consent.
- Add links to guidance or resources throughout the iStar application.
- Consistent review amongst IRB reviewers.
- Faster Clinical Trials Office (CTO) turnaround
- Easier access to CITI certification of completion
- Set office hours for IRB staff to be available to help/ answer questions