

IRB Bulletin: February 2025

Announcements

As a part of the Northwestern University IRB Office's initiative to share timely resources and information with the research community, the IRB publishes the Bulletin at the beginning of each month, which contains relevant updates from the IRB Office. You can also find the IRB Bulletin on the [IRB News & Announcements webpage](#). Please keep reading for this month's updates.



New Illinois Law on Creating Generative AI Likenesses

In 2025, a new Illinois law went into effect, banning the creation or distribution of audio/visual digital replicas of persons without their permission. This law is mainly targeted at commercial enterprises, but researchers should be aware of possible implications for future studies. The full text of the law can be found on the [Illinois General Assembly website](#).

For additional guidance on responsible use of AI for research purposes, check out the IRB's May 2024 Brown Bag presentation "[Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Human Research](#)" and Northwestern IT's [Guidance on the Use of Generative AI](#).



Discover the New Interactive Investigator Manual!

Introducing our newly updated IRB **Investigator Manual (HRP-103)** – now fully interactive and designed to improve ease of access and use. This new version offers an intuitive, user-friendly experience, allowing

researchers to quickly and easily find the information they need, when they need it. Say goodbye to the hassle of scrolling through the lengthy PDF; our interactive manual is organized for seamless navigation and more efficient access to key content. While the PDF version remains available for those who prefer it, we encourage the research community to explore the enhanced capabilities of the new interactive format for a more streamlined and dynamic research experience.

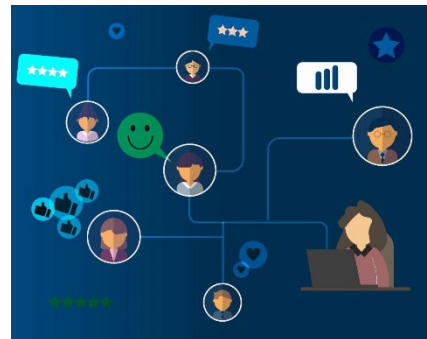
<https://irb.northwestern.edu/resources-guidance/investigator-manual/>

UPCOMING IRB BROWN BAG

Navigating Continuing Reviews - Submission Guidelines & Key Considerations

February 19, 2025 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

The IRB Office is excited to present a session led by some of our Biomedical Senior Analysts, who will provide an in-depth look at Continuing Reviews for human research. During this presentation, attendees will learn the step-by-step process for submitting Continuing Reviews, what essential information to include, and how to ensure ongoing compliance with federal regulations and IRB requirements. We will also address common challenges and best practices for maintaining compliance throughout the lifecycle of human research studies. Join us to gain a deeper understanding of the Continuing Review process and its critical role in protecting participants and ensuring research integrity.



Please view the [Events Page](#) for details and registration information for upcoming **Brown Bag** informational sessions.

UPDATED DOCUMENTS

The following was updated and is now available on the [SOPs](#) Page:

- Toolkit Management (HRP-071)

The following was updated and is now available on the [Checklists & Worksheets](#) Page:

- Adults with Impaired Decision-making Capacity (HRP-417)

For more information on updated documents reach out to irb@northwestern.edu

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Munoz, MS, has been promoted to Senior IRB Biomedical Analyst. Since joining the IRB office in July 2022 as an IRB Analyst, John has provided invaluable guidance to investigators navigating complex human research submissions. John's leadership has been invaluable, particularly in managing the annual review of Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) documentation and integrating regulatory recommendations. In his new role as Senior IRB Biomedical Analyst, John will continue to assist our HRPP by reviewing a wide range of submissions and will serve as a key resource for regulatory guidance and policy interpretation for the research community. Congratulations, John!

Mila DeMarte, BS, has been promoted to Senior IRB Biomedical Analyst. Since joining the IRB office in December 2022 as an IRB Analyst, Mila has been an essential contributor, seamlessly handling a variety of IRB submissions, including complex device studies. Mila has actively engaged in educational opportunities, reflecting her dedication to fostering a culture of learning and knowledge-sharing within the office. In her new role as Senior IRB Biomedical Analyst, Mila will continue to support our HRPP by reviewing diverse submissions and providing the research community with essential regulatory guidance and policy interpretation. Congratulations, Mila!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Meet Laura Loeb!

Hello! I'm a Senior IRB Analyst in my third year with the Northwestern Social Behavioral IRB and my seventh year as an IRB analyst overall. Before entering the exciting world of the IRB, I was on the other side of the review process as a researcher. I completed a PhD in Sociology from UCLA, where I focused on conversation analysis as applied to U.S. Politics and the news media.

Here at Northwestern, I work with our social behavioral researchers on a wide variety of projects that fall under the Social Behavioral umbrella. I conduct pre-review, review minimal risk studies, and co-manage the full board meetings for the social behavioral panel (Panel E). The great thing about working at the IRB is that there's always some interesting new research coming from our research community! I particularly enjoy working with student researchers and am happy to answer questions (big and small) from anyone!

Outside of the IRB, in my free time, I enjoy all my favorite Chicago things, including public transportation, live music, delicious food, and Lake Michigan.

Please use the [Northwestern University IRB Office Website](#) as your primary source of information and resources on human research protections

