

September 29, 2020

Dear Member of the WVU Research Community:

WVU has a long history collaborating on research with the Department of Defense (DOD) and has repeatedly assumed responsibility as IRB of Record on those studies that target DOD personnel and/or include DOD funding. However, DOD procedures mandate compliance with additional military-specific, regulations, directives, and instructions that increase the complexity of human subject research protections, intensify WVU's institutional risk, and deepen regulatory burden especially for the IRB of Record.

Therefore, from this point forward WVU will cede IRB review and oversight to the appropriate DOD IRB on studies that involve DOD funding and/or include DOD personnel as a targeted population. To achieve this end:

- 1) WVU has terminated its agreement with the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center (LAJVAMC) to be the IRB of Record on studies involving the facility. All studies at LAJVAMC are now officially closed, and any future studies involving WVU researchers, the facility, or its patients will be overseen by an external IRB designated by LAJVAMC.
- 2) Studies in development or pending initial review that target DOD personnel or include DOD funding will be transferred to the appropriate DOD IRB (or their designee) for review and oversight unless granted a waiver by the VP of Research. It will be the WVU investigator's responsibility to work with the appropriate DOD IRB (or their designee) to obtain proper approval to proceed with the study. The WVU investigator will be required to register his/her study with WVU IRB and ensure appropriate reliance agreements are properly executed between the respective institutions before beginning the study.
- 3) Active studies currently overseen by WVU IRB that involve DOD personnel and/or DOD funding will continue to be overseen by WVU IRB until the study closes unless WVU recommends that the study be transferred to the appropriate military IRB or their designee, either now or in the future.

If you have any questions related to the execution of these new procedures, please contact Gretchen McMasters, Director, WVU Office of Human Research Protections at (304) 293-7555 or via email at gretchen.mcmasters@mail.wvu.edu.

Sincerely,



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