PRECISION MEDICINE TAKES CENTER STAGE

Newsletter | Spring 2015
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We are experimenting with new formats for our Newsletter. We always welcome comments and ideas. Please contact Matt McCoy at mm4677@columbia.edu

Front cover image: Andrew Marks Lab, CUMC
A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH: THE GREATEST PROFESSION

Dear Colleagues:

Since they first walked on this planet, humans have labored to improve their quality of life. No labor has yielded more benefit than that of generating new knowledge about how we and our natural world function. Innumerable examples exist to support this statement, from the earliest days of human history to the revolutions in biomedical sciences that are occurring as we speak.

I fear that this self-evident truth is not widely understood by many in our nation. As academics and members of the profession that is undoubtedly the greatest single contributor of new understanding, it is our shared responsibility to continuously inform and educate our lay colleagues. The need for this will never go away. Doubt and skepticism will always exist. We must repeatedly articulate, in the innumerable different ways available to us, that the foundation for the continuous betterment of human life is the generation of new knowledge.

A spectacular example of this important educational process is the recently released Ken Burns PBS documentary, “Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies,” based upon Siddhartha Mukherjee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning book of the same name. At its core, it is an account of the scientific method, played out over more than a century, that is completely familiar to all of us. It is a story about ignorance, incorrect hypotheses and flawed conclusions, and about inspiration, new insights, an occasional revolution and decades of careful, meticulous research. Very appropriately, there is no absolute ending. There is never an end to the learning process.

Because this one particular story is about cancer, it involves the traumatic life and death decisions that families tragically must face. An important theme that emerges is the importance of the relationship of trust that has to exist between patients, family members and the researching physician. In the research context, this trust must be based upon clarity and transparency – complete openness about doubts, uncertainties and levels of understanding.

In this wonderful account of the cancer research story, this openness is stark and clear. Significantly, I believe it serves as a powerful lesson about the importance of the relationship of trust between the academic research community and the lay public. Without this trust, our work is wasted. I know that our profession occasionally is the target of partisan-based political attacks in Congress (a notable and recent example being Representative Lamar Smith’s misguided attempts to undermine the NSF peer review system), but that is not the crucial concern. It will pass.

As a profession we must focus on the core objective of retaining trust in our work through openness, transparency, rigor and meticulous care. All of our students and postdocs should leave our supervision only after having the highest standards of research integrity instilled in every action they take in the laboratory, the field and the clinic. In this way we will retain and further build the public’s trust in our work and will fulfill our mission to make new knowledge the foundation of a continuously improving world.

G. Michael Purdy

Executive Vice President for Research
abies communicate by crying, but how can parents discern a standard narration from a battle cry of agony? Colic – an observed set of symptoms of baby (and parent) distress, rather than a formal disease – is characterized by crying for more than three hours per day, for three or more days per week and for more than three weeks’ time.

Colic, which affects 2-5% of infants, has a troublingly strong correlation with Shaken Baby Syndrome, which accounts for between 240 and 400 deaths per year in the United States.

It is additionally responsible for thousands of hospital visits and thousands of emotionally-drained parents. Nevertheless, the causes, diagnoses and treatments of infantile colic are still unknown: We are no closer to understanding or curing this ailment than we were before the advent of medicine. This raises a terrible hue and cry.

Dr. Ansaf Salleb-Aouissi, Associate Research Scientist in the Center for Computational Learning Systems, is leading a team that applies machine learning techniques to better understand the causes of colic, by identifying similarities across medical records of babies brought to the hospital due to crying. Insight into better diagnosis, treatment and even prevention of colic may be found within the thousands of doctors’ notes created from hospital visits.

Funded by the Executive Vice President for Research’s Research Initiatives in Science and Engineering (RISE) program, the Salleb-Aouissi team received $160,000 of seed funding from 2011-2013, to analyze pediatric notes for 1,240 babies brought to NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital due to excessive crying. Despite inconsistency across all note formats, along with the informality of many of the records, the Salleb-Aouissi lab generated a number of fascinating initial findings: 63% of colicky babies were male (although only 51% of babies studied were male); constipation was noted four times as often in non-colicky babies than in colicky babies; excessive crying was noted 1000% times more often in colicky babies than in non-colicky babies.

Following these initial observations, the Salleb-Aouissi team received a $175,457 NSF Early Concept Grant for Exploratory Research entitled, “EAGER: Collaborative Research: Advanced Machine Learning for Prediction of Preterm Birth,” to continue developing computational models that can accommodate hundreds of thousands more pediatric notes. They also aspire to use social media and parental blogs to gain more insights into infant colic and bring it to the public sphere.

The activities of the Salleb-Aouissi team demonstrate the value of solving biomedical problems with methods in the physical sciences.

Please join the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research in congratulating Dr. Salleb-Aouissi on her team’s research accomplishments – we are a far cry from being helpless in the face of colic.

For more information, please contact Marley Bauce, Office of Research Initiatives, at mb3952@columbia.edu
Columbia has launched a major initiative in Precision Medicine, from basic research to clinical care. The initiative joins research and clinical faculty at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) with colleagues across the University in an effort to redefine the landscape of healthcare and related social issues in ethics, law, journalism and public health. The initiative also leverages Columbia’s strong relationship with NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital as a partner in the development of clinically actionable applications of precision medicine. Columbia labs will also benefit greatly from the scientific resources of our key partner institutions, the New York Genome Center and the New York Structural Biology Center.

Announced by President Bollinger last year, the Precision Medicine Initiative’s director is Dr. Tom Maniatis, Isidore S. Edelman Professor of Biochemistry and Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at CUMC, and cofounder of the New York Genome Center. Dr. Maniatis joins President Bollinger, Dean Lee Goldman, and more than thirty faculty members from schools across the University on a Task Force charged with establishing Columbia as a top university in the field of Precision Medicine.

Dr. Maniatis was at the White House on January 30 when President Obama announced the details of the national precision medicine initiative, originally mentioned in his State of the Union address. President Obama’s precision medicine initiative, through the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, the Food and Drug Administration and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, will allocate $215 million to precision medicine initiatives during 2016, including projects dealing with cancer, research cohorts, patient privacy, regulatory modernization and public-private partnerships.

Columbia launched a Distinguished Lectures in Precision Medicine series on December 1, 2014. David Goldstein, PhD, now the Director of the Institute for Genomic Medicine at CUMC, spoke on the topic of “The Genetics and Genomics of Precision Medicine.” On February 19, 2015, Harold Varmus, MD, the recently-retired Director of the National Cancer Institute, spoke on “How Cancer Research is Transforming Cancer Control.” Most recently, Richard Lifton, MD, PhD, co-chair of the planning committee for President Obama’s precision medicine initiative and Professor of Genetics and Medicine at Yale University, gave a lecture on “Genes, Genomes, and the Future of Medicine.” These lectures were delivered to full audiences of faculty, students and staff at the Alumni Auditorium at CUMC. The series will continue in the fall semester.

In planning for the intellectual content of the initiative, the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research has hosted a series of faculty-led workshops on research areas relevant to precision medicine. Workshops have spanned a wide range of topics, from ethics, law and economics, to cancer research. Through these workshops Columbia faculty have had the opportunity to connect with others interested in similar research areas and shape the academic direction of the initiative.

Future activities will include the identification of potential recruitments and infrastructure that will support Columbia’s aspiration to be a top university in precision medicine research. These activities will rely on existing assets on both campuses, and the new Manhattanville campus, and will provide opportunities for collaboration across campuses and disciplines.

Already, the University’s efforts have resulted in the recruitment of David Goldstein, a leader in population and medical genetics. Dr. Goldstein joined Columbia from Duke University, where he was the Director of the Center for Human Genome Variation and The Richard and Pat Johnson Distinguished University Professor. Under the direction of Dr. Goldstein, the Institute for Genomic Medicine will be charged with creating a cohesive, University-wide research and teaching environment for human genetics and genomics.

For more information, please contact Lee Nunley, Office of the EVPR, at ln2287@columbia.edu
LATCH: A NEW PLATFORM

Environmental Health and Safety introduces a new, web-based platform for the management of laboratory inspection and training data

COLUMBIA

LION

This Spring, a new, web-based platform for the management of laboratory inspection and training data will be available to all University laboratories. Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) received extensive feedback from the University community, and following the introduction of the Laboratory Assessment Tool and Chemical Hygiene plan (LATCH) in 2013, a new vendor, SafetyStratus, was selected to provide a database that will enhance the user experience and overall utility of the LATCH. We are confident that the new platform will better meet the needs of Principal Investigators, Laboratory Managers and other users.

The new platform, the Columbia LION (Laboratory Information Online Network), offers improved interactive features for completion of the annually-required LATCH, as well as additional functionality to dramatically streamline communication with EH&S when following up on survey observations and other action items. In-lab surveys performed by EH&S will now be completed via tablet devices, allowing for real-time reporting. Laboratories will also have the opportunity to complete self-surveys for verification by EH&S to add greater efficiency to interactions. The system can be used to maintain chemical inventories and track safety equipment and specialized laboratory devices.

Laboratory surveys will commence this Spring and researchers will notice some differences in the survey program as well. Lengthy, comprehensive surveys will be replaced by briefer and more frequent, topically-focused visits that will allow laboratories to address priority items. Throughout the process, in-lab instruction will be offered to help ensure that laboratories are able to use the Columbia LION system to its fullest capabilities. Formal tutorial sessions will also be available throughout the Spring and Summer of 2015. Please watch your email and www.ehs.columbia.edu for further updates, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

“The best part? Information recorded in the existing database, including your LATCH, will be transferred seamlessly. Laboratories can pick up exactly where they left off to complete their annual update and access real-time training information.”

For more information, please contact Kathleen Crowley, Associate Vice President for Environmental Health and Safety, at ke298@cumc.columbia.edu
Coordinating clinical care among the multitudes of providers has always been a challenge faced by the medical community. This is especially the case for research participants at medical centers. When a patient becomes a subject in a research study, the patient’s other providers are often not aware of their participation unless explicitly told by the patient. This is not always a possibility when a subject is incapacitated in an emergent situation.

The Clinical Trials Office (CTO) has teamed up with the Department of Biomedical Informatics (DBMI), the Department of Surgery, the Department of Information Technology and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital to address this issue. Two systems, one currently in use by the CTO and one newly developed by DBMI, are being interfaced to identify patients who are involved in an investigational study. The study may include interventions such as an investigational drug or device.

StudyManager™ has been utilized by the CTO and the research community at CUMC for the last several years to track activity from industry-sponsored clinical trials. By leveraging this information, DBMI has introduced a research identification field into iNYP, a newly developed medical record system that is replacing the previously used medical record, WebCIS – a former favorite among clinicians.

iNYP pulls information from StudyManager™ to provide the treating clinician with the name of the study that the patient is participating in and the Principal Investigator (PI) conducting the research. When a clinician is treating a patient, whether in the emergency room or pre-operatively, he or she will be informed of a patient’s participation in a clinical trial and have the ability to contact the study’s PI with any clinical concerns.

As a research institution, one of the University’s top priorities is to ensure the safety of our patients. Innovations developed by our world-class faculty and staff, such as iNYP, enable Columbia clinicians to conduct research effectively and responsibly.

For more information, please contact Jonathan Kim, Clinical Trials Office, at jk2805@cumc.columbia.edu
Publishing one’s research in a top tier journal is often the goal for both a postdoc and his/her PI. First and foremost, this accomplishment requires innovative and groundbreaking research. However, not to be overlooked are the steps to be taken when conducting the research that may eventually lead to a high impact publication. To assist postdocs in achieving this goal, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is offering a monthly seminar series, entitled How to Conduct Research That Gets Published and Noticed. The series will run from April through November at noon on the third Thursday of each month at CUMC. It will examine the research life cycle for a postdoc from research design best practices through considerations for getting a publication accepted.

Postdocs who are interested in a tenure-track faculty career path should become familiar with the faculty job search and interviewing process to increase their chances for success in securing a faculty position. Once a faculty position is secured, the transition to research independence begins in earnest, with a new PI needing to master a variety of skills to quickly get his/her research program up and running. In this seminar series for postdocs, entitled, Transitioning to Research Independence, we will inform postdocs about the nuts and bolts of seeking a faculty position, considerations for establishing a lab, strategies for leading and managing a research group, how to secure funding and how to mentor trainees. This seminar series will debut in Summer 2015 and further information about the series will be sent out via email to postdocs in May.

In September 2014, we held the first annual Postdoc Research and Career Symposium with the overreaching goal of bringing postdocs from different research areas together to present their research, network with colleagues and forge new collaborations. The event featured poster presentations by 50 postdocs from across the University and saw more than 150 postdocs attend the event. The second annual Postdoc Research and Career Symposium will take place in September 2015, and we will once again feature opportunities for postdocs to present their research during this event.

This year, in addition to the poster session, we will also select several abstracts for short talks. Further announcements about the event will be sent out in early May with abstracts being accepted for consideration beginning on June 1st. Faculty and other members of the University research community will be invited through broadcast emails to attend the research presentations and poster session. The event will also feature a career fair, keynote talk and networking reception for postdocs.

For more information, please contact Rory Flinn, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, at rf2531@cump.columbia.edu
**YETI SIGHTING**

*High Performance Computing expansion in the Shared Research Computing Facility*

The expansion of Columbia’s shared High-Performance Computing (HPC) cluster, Yeti, was successfully completed on February 23, 2015. The Yeti HPC cluster was launched in October 2013 and is shared by ten research groups/departments. This expansion brings us to 167 nodes, including Infiniband and Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) nodes, with 24 participating groups/departments.

*Yeti* is a joint purchase and partnership among the research groups/departments, **CUIT** and the **Office of the Executive Vice President for Research**, facilitated by the Shared Research Computing Policy Advisory Committee (SRCPAC), and supported in part by **Arts & Sciences**, the **Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science** and **New York State Empire State Development Corporation’s Division of Science Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR)**. Individuals who do not have access to Yeti as part of the 24-purchaser research partnership are accommodated through a fee-based rental service, as well as a free tier with lower priority.

(SRPCAC) meetings are open to all members of Columbia’s research community, including faculty, postdocs and staff. For more information about SRCPAC, please visit [http://researchinitiatives.columbia.edu/shared-research-computing/srpac](http://researchinitiatives.columbia.edu/shared-research-computing/srpac). To join the SRCPAC mailing list and receive all future Committee updates, please email srpac@columbia.edu.

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**SCIENcv: CREATING BIOSKETCHES**

*New tools from the NIH*


The new biosketch format extends the page limit from four to five pages, and provides researchers with the opportunity to describe up to five of their most significant contributions to science. Publications and other products can be associated with each description.

The Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENcv) is an interagency system designed to create biosketches for multiple federal agencies. It supports the new NIH biosketch format. With SciENcv, you can transform an existing biosketch from one format to another (e.g., old NIH format to new NIH format, NIH format to NSF format). The U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) recently issued a [technical bulletin](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/) containing step-by-step instructions on using SciENcv for creating the new NIH biosketch format.

SciENcv can auto-populate grant information from your eRA Commons profile, and publications from your Bibliography in MyNCBI. Multiple versions of your biosketch can be saved and edited for future purposes for both NIH and NSF applications and progress reports.


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For more information, please contact Stephanie Scott, Sponsored Projects Administration, at sfs2110@cumc.columbia.edu
Implementing the New Uniform Guidance: Resources for PIs and Administrators

On December 26, 2014, new federal grants management regulations known as the Uniform Guidance went into effect, covering all new federal awards and most non-competing renewals made on or after that date. In addition, given that the University’s sponsored projects policies and procedures are strongly influenced by federal requirements, the Guidance and the University’s response to it have implications for many non-federal awards as well.

Resources and Training Available
During the past year, the Uniform Guidance Task Force has created and made available a number of resources to assist preparation for and compliance with the requirements of the Guidance, including regular communications, reference guides (What PIs Need to Know About the Uniform Guidance, Proposal Preparation under the Uniform Guidance, and Uniform Guidance Cost Principles) and a dedicated website [http://spa.columbia.edu/uniform-guidance] housing these and other resources. This Spring, the Task Force is rolling out training for PIs, administrators and others with specific details on the University’s processes and resources for managing sponsored projects.

Training Workshops
Two-session training workshops that are open to administrators, PIs and others are being offered on the CUMC and Morningside campuses in April and May. The workshops provide practical guidance on the operational requirements, policies and procedures necessary for compliance with the Uniform Guidance across the project lifecycle. All administrators involved with pre-and/or post-award aspects of sponsored projects, federal and non-federal, should be encouraged to attend. Registration and information about the workshops is available at [http://spa.columbia.edu/files_sponsoredprojects/imce_shared/UG_Workshops_Save_the_Date_with_links.pdf]

On-line Resources for PIs
A short on-line training video and other on-line resources detailing procedures for on-going monitoring of sponsored project financial data will be available soon.

For questions or additional information, visit the Uniform Guidance website [http://spa.columbia.edu/uniform-guidance] or contact the Uniform Guidance Task Force at uniform-guidance@columbia.edu.

A Primer (Part 3) on Export Controls: Identifying Risk Areas

In this third installment of articles exploring how export controls apply on campus, we focus on identifying export control “risk areas,” i.e., situations in which export control issues are most likely to arise. Columbia researchers and administrators should be aware of these risk areas in order to identify potential export issues early and ensure they receive the proper export review. Contact Michelle Avallone, the Research Export Control Officer, at mla25@columbia.edu for assistance.

As discussed in previous issues (Winter 2014 and Spring 2014), most of the activities on Columbia’s campuses fall outside the scope of U.S. export regulations due to several exclusions, or carve outs, from the regulations. Although these exclusions are useful, export control issues can and do arise on campus. Situations in which export control issues are most likely to arise include the following:

Presence of Publication/Participation Restrictions
University statutes prohibit restrictions on dissemination or publication of research results, except for short-term delays to protect patent rights or proprietary information. If publication restrictions, other than the short term delays noted above, are present, or if the project restricts the participation of foreign nationals on a research project, then export restrictions might apply to the research results. If so, this could affect your ability to publish. Research Administration (i.e., Sponsored Projects Administration and the CTO) reviews agreements carefully to ensure that any such restrictions are removed or revised to protect publication rights. Publication and participation restrictions may also occur outside of written agreements as, for example, in informal communications between the researcher and sponsor. If you identify a publication or participation restriction that Research Administration may not be aware of, whether the restriction is formal or informal, written or spoken, contact the Research Export Control Officer immediately.

Receipt of Proprietary, Confidential or Export Controlled Information
If you receive information in connection with your Univer-
sity research projects that is not publicly available, such as proprietary or confidential information, or information that is marked as export controlled (e.g., “subject to the ITAR”, “subject to the EAR”), then export restrictions might apply. If so, this could affect your ability to share the information with foreign national students or colleagues. For this reason, a confidentiality agreement should be put in place before receiving non-public information from an outside party. The confidentiality agreement will be reviewed by the University, in many cases by Columbia Technology Ventures (CTV), for export control and other issues. If, however, you are receiving non-public information and a confidentiality agreement is not in place, or you receive information marked as export controlled, please contact the Research Export Control Officer.

Use of ITAR-Controlled Instrumentation in Research
If you are purchasing a research instrument that is controlled under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), use of this instrument by foreign nationals on campus will likely require a license from the U.S. State Department. In general, standard scientific laboratory equipment is not subject to the ITAR. However, some fields require instrumentation that may be subject to these stringent regulations. Instruments that are likely to be ITAR-controlled include those that have military or defense applications, or those originally developed for military or defense purposes. To determine if an instrument is ITAR-controlled, you should ask the vendor for the export classification prior to purchase. If the proposed purchase is subject to the ITAR or has an export control classification number (ECCN) under the EAR, or if you are unable to obtain an export classification, or if you have questions about export classifications in general, please contact the Research Export Control Officer.

International Shipments
If you are sending (or taking) equipment outside the U.S. either for your own or another person’s use abroad, an export review should be completed prior to shipment. Use of a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) to send samples, materials or equipment to third parties outside the U.S. is recommended. The MTA will be reviewed by the University, in many cases by CTV, for export control and other issues. If an MTA is not appropriate, (i.e., if you are hand carrying equipment outside the U.S. to use at your field site), please contact the Research Export Control Officer prior to export.

An important component of Columbia’s export compliance program is for researchers and administrators to identify export control risk areas and seek additional guidance. This will ensure that the potential issue receives the proper export review. When identified early, export control issues often are resolved quickly.

For more information about export controls, please visit the Office of Research Compliance and Training’s website: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/compliance/docs/international_research/index.html. If you have questions about export controls as they relate to your research or would like additional training on export controls, please contact Columbia’s Research Export Control Officer, Michelle Avallone, at 212-851-9822 or research-compliance@columbia.edu. For information regarding confidentiality agreements and MTAs, visit CTV’s website: http://techventures.columbia.edu/inventors/request-material-transfer-or-confidentiality-agreement.

Public Access Mandates for Federally Funded Research: Resources for Researchers

In February 2013, the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) released the memorandum, Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research, directing federal agencies to develop plans to make publications resulting from federally funded research freely available to the public within one year of publication. In addition, the memo requires researchers to better account for and manage the digital data that results from their federally funded scientific research with the goal of making these data publicly accessible. Federal funding agencies began rolling out their implementation plans in 2014, and to date, many of our key funders have released plans, including the NIH, the Department of Energy (DoE) and Department of Defense (DoD).

The University Libraries Scholarly Communications Program has been collecting and reviewing agency implementation plans, and creating resources to help researchers identify and satisfy their funders’ requirements. They have summarized the plans of those agencies that have made their implementation plans public and posted them at: http://scholcomm.columbia.edu/open-access/public-access-mandates-for-federally-funded-research/. Additional information and resources about Public Access policies can be found here: http://scholcomm.columbia.edu/open-access/.

For more information, please contact Joel Roselin, Office of Research Compliance and Training at jr2644@columbia.edu.
What is being done and why?
The Rascal IRB module is being redesigned to solicit and systematize all of the information necessary to facilitate efficient IRB review. The objective is to significantly reduce the interval between submission and IRB approval by cutting the number of protocol returns prior to IRB review. In addition, the module’s underlying platform is being upgraded to permit branch logic and other functionality to improve usability.

What is the timeline for these changes?
The go-live date for IRB 2.0 is expected to be June 1, 2015.

How will this affect approved protocols?
Following roll-out, when a new event (e.g., modification, renewal) is created, all of the fields that have been revised or added to the new module must be completed in order to update the protocol. For example, whether the next event is a modification to add new personnel or is a renewal that includes a significant modification to procedures, all new and revised fields must be completed prior to submission. There will be significantly more required fields and new screens to complete in the new format.

How will this affect events (e.g., new protocol, modification, renewal) that have a returned or pending status at the time of roll-out?
Following roll-out, all of the fields that have been revised or added must be completed prior to resubmission of the returned event. Rascal will not allow submission of a protocol without the new or revised fields being completed.

What should researchers do now to avoid delays after roll-out?
Prior to roll-out, researchers should:
• Resubmit events that have been returned to them (i.e., those that have a pending or returned status) so that they can be processed and approved using the current format;
• Submit renewals for approved protocols for which the expiration date of IRB approval is in May or June 2015 so that they can be processed and approved using the current format;
• Submit as soon as possible if a modification to an approved protocol has been identified as being necessary to avoid having to complete all new and revised fields once the modification has become more urgent; and
• Submit closures for studies that have ended, to avoid having to complete renewals when the IRB approval expires.

Will researchers have the opportunity to see and/or try the new system prior to roll-out?
The Human Research Protection Office (HRPO) will hold informational sessions on both the CUMC and Morningside campuses prior to roll-out to demonstrate the new module, explain the roll-out process and answer questions. Presentations can also be scheduled upon request for departments, schools and other units that conduct research. Information about the transition will also be posted on the IRB websites, posted in the Rascal IRB module, and distributed via the IRB listservs.

It is expected that a demonstration of the new IRB module will be available several weeks prior to the roll-out date. This would enable users to become familiar with the system. It would not have the functionality to allow actual preparation of new protocols, or modifications/renewals to approved protocols, prior to roll-out.

Will assistance be available after roll-out to complete the new fields/screens in Rascal?
HRPO staff will be available in campus computer labs to provide assistance in completing submissions after roll-out. Schedules will be provided via listserv messages and on the IRB websites.

How can one be added to the IRB listservs?
To sign up for the CUMC IRB listserv: send an email to irboffice@columbia.edu
To sign up for the CU-Morningside listserv: send an email to askirb@columbia.edu

For more information, please contact Brenda Ruotolo, Executive Director of Human Research Protection Office / IRBs at blr2102@cumc.columbia.edu
In 2012, Columbia University and the University of Glasgow launched a program that provides a select number of PhD students and postdocs unique educational and training opportunities at both institutions. The exchanges are intended to enhance research activities that are shared between faculty members at the two institutions by providing support for short visits. These visits may be used to carry out research, develop methods, learn techniques or access unique archival resources. Since the inception of the program, three annual awards have been made at Columbia. Collaborations have developed in areas such as materials science, biomedical engineering, astronomy, neuroscience, public health and psychology to name just a few.

Until this year, only students and postdocs in science and engineering departments were eligible to participate in the program. This past fall, in a pilot competition, eligibility was extended to the humanities and social sciences. In this most recent cycle, awards were made to postdocs and PhD students in the departments of Psychiatry, Earth and Environmental Engineering, Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics and English and Comparative Literature. The next call for applications is planned for Fall 2015.

Key Areas of Collaboration
Independent of the exchange program, research collaborations have developed between the University of Glasgow and Columbia faculty in areas such as biomedical engineering, gravitational physics, neuroscience, cardiovascular medicine, psychology and sustainable urban development. Continued development of international links is a high priority at both universities because of the benefits provided in terms of research collaboration, training, education and knowledge transfer.

For more information, please contact Greg Culler, Office of Research Initiatives, at gcc19@columbia.edu
Isabel Bustamante has joined the HRPO as an IRB Specialist on the Expedited Team. Prior to joining the HRPO, Isabel spent 6 years working in the Office of Clinical Research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In her spare time she runs a community organization where she lives in Bogota, NJ and is a business owner.

Jennifer Charneco joins Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA) at CUMC as a Senior Project Officer. Prior to joining SPA, she held a position as a Program Manager for the FOCUS Wellness Center at Rutgers University, where she managed all of the financial and grant aspects of its portfolio. She also worked with the Development team at Rutgers on fund raising and project development. Jennifer has also held a position in the Mailman School of Public Health’s SPA office working as a Project Officer.

Christopher joined the Office of Research Initiatives (ORI) to assist in the analysis of Federal research grant funding and to offer strategic insights to improve the University's competitiveness at capturing research funding. An undergraduate student in the School of General Studies, Christopher previously worked for a consultancy firm in New Jersey, where his duties included conducting local market and economic analyses and assisting with economic revitalization plans for government clients in New Jersey and New York City.

Mariely Hernandez joined the HRPO as an IRB Specialist with the Quality Assurance team in late summer 2014. Prior to joining the HRPO, Mariely has held positions as a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Pediatric Psychopharmacology and Adult ADHD Clinical and Research Program at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and as a Project Coordinator in the Division of Epidemiology at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Mariely earned her M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Teachers College at Columbia University and holds an undergraduate degree in Neuroscience and Behavior from Columbia College.

Heather Horgan has been at the University since 1996: first at Barnard as an undergrad and then in the Historic Preservation program at GSAPP where she earned her M.S. degree. In 2011, she joined SPA as a Project Officer. She has one adorable son and an excellent walk to work.
EVELYN HUANG
Associate Director for Compliance Oversight

Evelyn Huang has joined the HRPO as the Associate Director for Compliance Oversight. She is responsible for leading the Compliance Oversight Team to conduct audits and investigations for research projects reviewed by the HRPO. Before joining the HRPO, Evelyn was the Associate Director for GCP/PV Auditing, SOP Management and Training for the Translational Research Program at the University of Pennsylvania. Her certifications include Certified Healthcare Research Compliance (CHRC) and Certified Clinical Research Associate (CCRA). Evelyn received her Masters degree in Public Health from Lehman College, New York. She graduated from the Medical College and finished her medical residency in China.

SAID JARRAR
Financial Analyst, CUMC

Said Jarrar is a new Financial Analyst in SPA. He comes to Columbia with years of finance, accounting and auditing experience in various industries. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA), and has earned a Master’s degree in Accounting and Financial Management, and a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting.

ELIZABETH LYDA
IRB Specialist

Elizabeth Lyda joined the HRPO as an IRB Specialist in September 2014. She brings almost a decade of experience working with the communities of Harlem and Washington Heights/Inwood through various leadership roles in research and evaluation, including the Healthy Schools, Healthy Families program which has since merged with C.H.A.L.K. at CUMC/NYPH. Prior to joining the HRPO, Elizabeth was the Director of Grameen, America’s first ever girls’ health, leadership, and empowerment initiative in collaboration with the Nike Foundation’s first U.S. expansion of The Girl Effect. She has Master’s degrees in School and Community Health Education, a New York State Health Teacher License, and a New York State Insurance License.

BETSY MACLEOD
Administrative Coordinator, Office of the EVPR

Betsy is a liaison between the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research (EVPR) and ORI, as well as the Precision Medicine Initiative, providing administrative support in calendar management, event planning, financial reporting and communications.

MATT MCCOY
Coordinator of Special Projects, Office of the EVPR

Matt McCoy assists in the day-to-day operations and special projects for the Office of the EVPR. He is primarily responsible for the calendar of the EVPR and coordinating affairs among the Office's senior staff, University leadership and external associates.
Tanusha Satavalli has recently joined the CUMC SPA Office as an Administrative Coordinator. Prior to joining the SPA team, she attended the University of Connecticut. She graduated with a BS in Biology with a concentration in English. Tanusha has had extensive volunteer- and job-related experiences in several health care and health policy organizations.

Dominic Vendell joined the Office of the EVPR in September 2014. He is a Ph.D. student in History at Columbia, specializing in the history of modern India and the British empire. Previously, Dominic worked at the McCormick School of Engineering at Northwestern University in Evanston, where his responsibilities included providing on-request administrative assistance and managing content for three academic websites. He plans to spend 2015-6 conducting research in India and the UK.

Araceli Viruet has been promoted to Senior Financial Analyst in SPA. She has been working for the MSPH SPA office for 7 years and at Columbia since 1997. Her responsibilities include: processing post-award actions and reviewing data for accuracy, ensuring compliance with award regulatory terms and University policies and assisting in gathering pertinent data for all MSPH projects involved in the annual A-133 audits. Prior to working at SPA, she was an Administrative Aide at the MSPH Finance Office and Office Assistant at the MSPH Dean’s Office.