UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD SECRETARIAT

ORIENTATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

DATE: MONDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 2017

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OVERVIEW

- What is research?

- Research may involve human or animal participants.

- This comes with unique complex ethical, legal, social and political issues.
Researchers may observe/cause/experience:
- Discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, association, etc
- Cruelty
- Unfair practices
- Crime
- Ethical dilemma
- Personal culture/religious conflict
- Harm/pain to research participants (physical, social, etc)
SOME ETHICAL ISSUES IN RESEARCH (2)

- Encounter secret experiences of participants, confessions, etc.
- Record participants voices, pictures or videos.
- Record personal confidential details (illness status, marital challenges, abortions, etc).
- Falsify data and results.
- Plagiarism.
- Coerce participants with diminished autonomy.
The Tuskegee Experiment (1932–1972): USA Public Health Service experiment on 399 black men in the late stages of syphilis
- 28 direct deaths
- 100 related complications
- 40 wives infected
- 19 children born with congenital syphilis

Treatment of Jews at Concentration camps.

Stanley Milgram’s Study on obedience
3 BASIC ETHICAL PRINCIPLES
(The Belmont Report)

PRINCIPLE 1: RESPECT FOR PERSONS

- Two separate moral requirements:
  - Acknowledgement of respondents autonomy; and
  - Requirement to protect those with diminished autonomy including exclusion from study (children, patients, incapacitated, prisoners, etc).
APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 1 IN RESEARCH

- INFORMED CONSENT
  - Information: Enough information to enable participants make informed choice – The research procedure, purpose, risk, and anticipated benefit, opportunity to ask questions and to withdraw at any time from the research.

  - Comprehension: Is the consent form crafted in comprehensible language? Consideration of respondents intelligence, rationality, maturity and language.

  - Voluntariness: Clarity of consent form on the fact that it is voluntary
    - Autonomy to make reasoned decision/conditions free of coercion and undue influence (non-offering of excessive, unwarranted, inappropriate or improper reward or other overture in order to obtain compliance.)
PRINCIPLE 2: BENEFICENCE

- Efforts/obligation to secure respondents well being.

- Researchers should not injure respondents regardless of the benefits from the research.
APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 2

ASSESSMENT OF RISK/BENEFITS

- Risk: The possibility of harm.
  - Benefit: Promotion of health, wellbeing or welfare of respondents.
  - Psychological harm, physical harm, legal harm, social harm, and economic harm and corresponding benefits.

  - Can the risks be minimized?
  - Can the research design be improved to minimise harm and maximize benefit?
  - What is the benefit (to participants; society)?
PRINCIPLE 3: JUSTICE

- “Fairness in distribution” or “what is deserved”.

- An injustice occurs when some benefit to which a person is entitled is denied without good reason or when some burden is imposed unduly.

- Distinctions based on experience, age, deprivation, competence, merit and position do sometimes constitute criteria justifying differential treatment for certain purposes.
APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 3

- Selection of subjects:
  - Appropriateness of selection pool.
  - Appropriateness of including vulnerable populations.
  - Is the recruitment fair and impartial?
  - Are the inclusion/exclusion criteria fair and appropriate?
ESSENCE OF INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

- Assess the ethical dimensions to be addressed in proposed study.

- Advice on the ethical dimensions observed, if necessary,

- Consider the interface of the science and ethical dimensions.
INTERFACE OF SCIENCE AND ETHICS

- Will the proposed study lead to the achievements of objectives?

- Are the objectives clear enough to ensure good science?

- Can the objectives be achieved with the proposed research approach?

- Are there any deceptions in the proposal?
THE PROTOCOL REVIEW PROCESS

- Submission to UCCIRB office (To Administrator).
- Assigning of Reviewers (at least 2).
- Receipt of Reviewers comments at Board Meetings
- Feedback to Pis

Note: Protocols must be submitted at least a month to fieldwork
WHY THE ORIENTATION?

- Understanding of the Ethical Clearance processes.
- Request for cooperation/supervision of research
- The increased international support for ethical clearance.
CONTACTS

- UCCIRB is in DRIC’s Office at old site.

- Email: irb@ucc.edu.gh

- Cell phone: 0244207814
THANK YOU
REFERENCES

- The Belmont report

- IRB 101 notes organised by PRIM&R 2015 Conference at Boston, USA.

- UCCIRB Application documents.