

THE COMPASS

A BULLETIN BY THE RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND ETHICS OFFICE

Your Say on Singaporean IRBs: Survey Invitation

The NUS Centre for Biomedical Ethics (CBmE) is seeking participants for a survey on assessing actual and ideal IRB processes and functions in Singapore [[+Read more](#)].

The intended audience for this survey as well as target research types are as listed below:

Target Participants:

- researchers under the supervision and control of NTU.
- research support staff who have been substantially involved in the drafting of research protocols in biomedical research that has undergone IRB review.

Target Research Types:

- research that falls under the Human Biomedical Research Act.
- clinical trials.
- biomedical research on anonymous data that would have undergone IRB review.

Click on the following link to begin the survey: <https://nus.edu/2APiWeg>
Or contact Vicki Xafis at vicki.xafis@nus.edu.sg for more information.



Follow up to Briefing on Human Tissue Framework

RIEO conducted a roadshow on the Human Tissue Framework under the Human Biomedical Research Act (HBRA) in light of its upcoming activation tentatively on **1 Jul 2019**. Similar sharing sessions were held at NTU on **23 Jan 2019** and at LKC Medicine on **24 Jan 2019** with the latter being hosted by the institute's Good Research Practice Office.

The talk provided an overview of tissue banking activities and touched on topics such as requirements, contraventions and exemptions under this Framework. Both briefings were attended by faculty, research staff and research administrators who actively participated in the discussions. Stakeholders were reminded to abide by the ethical and legal standards set by international ethical guidelines and local legislations such as HBRA and the Personal Data Protection Act to protect the safety and welfare of research subjects and tissue donors.

The roadshow was met with positive response from attendees who felt that it was beneficial in creating awareness on the administrative and operational requirements for conducting tissue banking activities for research.

For access to the briefing slides, please contact rieo@ntu.edu.sg.



Return of Individual Genomic Research Results

The return of individual results and incidental findings in research is recognisably complex, especially for studies that involve whole genome sequencing.

An article in Nature titled, "**Return of individual genomic research results: are laws and policies keeping step?**" discusses laws and policies relevant to the return of such data to research subjects and evaluates factors such as data quality, clinical context and utility [[+Read more](#)].

While the authors acknowledge that agreeing on such return policies and laws could prove to be difficult, especially in cases of international collaborations, the article provides a proposal for best practices that could help harmonise these efforts, such as through the establishment of a plan for the return of individual results prior to research ethics committee approval and by clarifying the choices available to participants.



Deadlines: **NTU-IACUC:** Next due date for new AUP submissions is **1 Mar 2019**. [[+Read more](#)].
NTU-IRB: New submissions are due on Mondays of every week. [[+Read more](#)].

Email Us: [NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [RIEO](#) [NTU Research Integrity Officer](#)

Web Links: [NTU-IRB](#) [NTU-IACUC](#) [Research Integrity](#) [ARFMS](#)