Human Biomedical Research Act

With the implementation of the HBRA on 1 Nov 2017, certain procedures are classified under prohibited research and restricted human biomedical research (HBR). If you intend to conduct HBR, prior approval from MOH is required.

In accordance with this legislation, PI’s are to inform the NTU-IRB Secretariat if they are planning to conduct any HBR. All research submitted to IRB from 1 Nov 2017 must use the new consent form template. If your research involves the introduction of human cells into animals, an IACUC application is also required. An updated IACUC application form can be found here.

For more information on revised forms and application processes, please contact the NTU-IRB or NTU-IACUC Secretariats.

NTU-IRB

NTU-IRB and National Healthcare Group (NHG) DSRB have agreed to cooperate and enable cross-recognition of each other’s ethics review, thereby eliminating dual reviews of the same research protocol. With effect from 5 October, collaborative studies involving both NTU and NHG investigators can be reviewed by either Party’s IRB, and should be submitted by the Lead PI to their respective institution’s IRB.

More info and an FAQ can be found here.

At NTU

On 6th October 2017, a second high level meeting on research integrity was held at the EMB learning studio. This was a follow up to the first held on 8th June 2017, and was targeted at senior management and members of the newly formed Research Integrity Committee (RIC).

The talk was delivered by NTU President and covered the measures implemented to promote the responsible conduct of research in the University. He also touched on the need for greater faculty involvement in research integrity matters.

More details on this here.

In the news

Research involving gene editing in human embryos poses several ethical challenges as it offers scientists the ability to make lasting changes to the human germ line.

On 21 September 2017, Nature published an editorial on recent studies involving gene editing in human embryos and proceeded to highlight measures that can be taken to ensure that such research remains in line with ethical considerations and consensus guidelines.