

Interdisciplinary collaboration between engineering, mathematics and science

SEMS Research Highlights



RMU Institutional Review Board (IRB)

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This newsletter presents the research conducted within the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science (SEMS) at Robert Morris University (RMU). It covers various relevant topics including: interdisciplinary efforts, successful research grants, student research, posters and papers, journal publications, presentations at national and international conferences, contribution to professional societies, STEM educational research, industrial consulting collaborations and applied research.

Adjoining textbox lists the basic steps required to obtain an IRB approval for a research project where the research involves human subjects.

Past abuses in clinical research have led the Federal Government to mandate that researchers safeguard the rights and welfare of the people who are the subjects of their activities. Institutions that undertake clinical and/or government-funded research, including government facilities, are required to have an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and appropriate procedures and documentation to ensure that human subjects are protected. Federal laws govern the conditions under which research related to human subjects is to be conducted. Robert Morris University (RMU) is committed to these laws based on moral, ethical, and legal grounds. The basic elements of an IRB application for approval are:

- Informed consent
- Recruiting human subjects for research
- Demonstrated due diligence and background research in the design of research hypothesis
- Appropriate, well designed

- Student Completes CITI IRB Training Modules
- Student Completes Online IRB Application Form
- Student Submits IRB Application
- Faculty Advisor Completes Submission Process
- IRB Coordinator Assigns Reviewers
- Reviewers Complete Reviews with Comments
- IRB Coordinator Informs the Outcome to the Student

research protocol to ensure no pain or death is caused in research

- Fair distribution of risks and rewards, and
- Information and data security and protection of privacy of human subjects.

Informed consent is one of the critical parts of the IRB application. Prospective participants in a research study must understand the purpose, the procedures, the potential risks and benefits of their involvement, and their alternatives to participation. This must be a voluntary participation and they must have a right to withdraw from research at any time at their will without any disadvantage to their situation.

At RMU IRB, two to three rep-

resentatives of each school are on IRB panel. The IRB members on RMU IRB board are as follows: Priya Manohar (Chair, SEMS), Judith Kaufman (Co-chair, SNHS), Bruce Johnston (Co-chair, Library), Lisa Nauman (IRB Coordinator), Sushil Acharya (Ex-officio, Academic Affairs), Sylvia Pamboukian (SCIS), Fred Kohun (Ex-officio advisor, SCIS) Suzan Kardong-Edgren and Michalene King (SNHS), Matthew Maurer (SEMS), Stephen Paul, James Bernauer, Philip Harold (SESS), Alben Ivanova, and Zhou Yang (SBUS), David Provenzano (External member). For more information, pl. visit the IRB website at: <http://irb.rmu.edu/>

This is a publication of SEMS - Research and Outreach Center (ROC) which was established in 2010 by the SEMS Dean Dr. Maria Kalevitch. SEMS-ROC connects SEMS faculty and students with the region, the nation and the globe, demonstrates diversity and interdisciplinary interests of all three departments in the school. For more information on research at RMU – SEMS please contact:

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