



## News & Announcements

### The WCM IRB is more efficient than ever! Make us your #1 choice for your study submissions!

We have cleared our backlog and made improvements to our internal processes to cut our response times dramatically - slashing the median number of days a submission stays in the IRB queue from 23 days (in June 2022) to **5 days** (in December 2022)! With the help of our research community, whose members have adapted so quickly to some of our important changes, we are now able to confidently state that our time-to-approvals has been cut by more than 50%!

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#### **Q: Between the WCM IRB and BRANYplus, which should I choose?**

**A:** Although BRANYplus is still available, the WCM IRB should be your first choice for all new study submissions!

***Reminder:** Any studies currently with BRANY as part of the BRANYplus initiative will remain with BRANY for the lifecycle of the research project.*

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#### **Q: When do I need to use an external (non-WCM) IRB?**

**A:** There are two scenarios for which an external (non-WCM) IRB are appropriate:

- Studies using or expecting to use a federal grant/sponsor-designated single IRB should continue using that IRB, but note that the WCM Single IRB process still applies.
- Industry-sponsored, industry-initiated trials are required to submit to their industry sponsor-designated IRB. If one is not designated, submit to BRANY through BRANYplus

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#### **Q: I'm still not sure what the next step is to get IRB approval for my study.**

**A:** We are here to help at any stage of the submission and review process! Set up a consultation with the IRB by clicking the link below:



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For questions about continuing to use **BRANYplus**, email [branyplus@med.cornell.edu](mailto:branyplus@med.cornell.edu)

For questions about submitting to the **WCM IRB**, contact [irb@med.cornell.edu](mailto:irb@med.cornell.edu)

## Did You Know?

### The Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC) is NOT part of the IRB!

The PRMC is a committee independent from the IRB that provides a scientific and statistical assessment of studies involving human subjects, with a mission to provide investigators with feedback designed to improve the quality and impact of their studies.

As announced in our November newsletter, The IRB will **not** review submissions that have not yet obtained approval from the PRMC (or its equivalent). **Any Initial IRB Application submitted that has not received PRMC approval will be returned to the PI by our pre-review analyst.** Study teams are encouraged to submit their study protocols to the PRMC (or Cancer PRMC for cancer-related studies) well ahead of their IRB submissions to ensure a faster turnaround time from IRB submission to approval.

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#### Studies being reviewed by the WCM IRB:

All initial applications currently in the pre-review or review process, and all initial applications going forward **will require PRMC approval before the IRB will review the study.** The IRB will use the WRG Study Activation Status Page (SASP) to determine if the study has received PRMC approval. Any initial applications that are currently with or submitted to the IRB without PRMC approval will be returned to the PI and study team.

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#### Studies being reviewed by BRANYplus:

All initial applications currently in the pre-review or review process, and all initial applications going forward **will require PRMC approval before the BRANY IRB will review the study.** The PRMC approval letter must be included with the initial BRANYplus application to demonstrate PRMC approval.

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#### Studies being submitted for local acknowledgement:

For studies being submitted for local acknowledgement that are under another external IRB (e.g. NCI CIRB, WCG, Advarra, Vanderbilt, BRANY through a federal grant, etc.), **PRMC approval must be obtained before an institutional acknowledgement letter will be issued** by the WCM IRB. However, the external IRB may complete its review prior to PRMC review. The single IRB team confirms the completion of the PRMC or equivalent review in SASP. Please work closely with the PRMC, IRB, and sIRB teams to ensure all requirements are met.

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The JCTO provides guidance on how to submit a study to the PRMC [here](#).

## Spotlight on...

The Center for Cultural Humility (CHUM) is a new multi-dimensional training and outreach center focused on facilitating culturally humble research and clinical practice with cultural minorities, including people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, low-income individuals, rural individuals, and individuals with physical, psychological, and cognitive disabilities. CHUM provides tailored, evidence-based trainings and facilitates community partnerships for members of the Weill Cornell community. CHUM trainers are available to lead trainings for departments and individuals on cultural humility and equitable research design; trainings are certificate-based and CEUs may be available. Learn more and sign-up for a training at [humility.cornell.edu](https://humility.cornell.edu).



To contact CHUM, please email [humility@cornell.edu](mailto:humility@cornell.edu)  
or contact CHUM's director, Dr. Jerel Ezell, PhD, MPH, at [jee4004@med.cornell.edu](mailto:jee4004@med.cornell.edu)



Have general questions about the IRB, or need help with your submission? [Email the IRB Team!](#)



Would you like to set up training for your lab or department? [Email the Operations Team!](#)

For more information, visit us at <https://research.weill.cornell.edu/irb>