



NEW YEAR NEW BEGINNINGS

We are making a New Year's Resolution!

Our new year's resolution is to better serve our research community. As many of you know, we are in the transition process now, with all new submissions being handled by an outside vendor (BRANY) while we undergo **some major changes**:

1. We have created a new IRB Operations Team **to streamline our current practices**
2. We are continuing to hire more IRB analysts and Operations Team members **to increase our capabilities**
3. We are developing a comprehensive education program **to include onboarding trainings** as well as the many facets of preparing a study protocol
4. We will be publishing our SOPs **to increase transparency**
5. We will be remodeling our website **to empower research teams** in their protocol development by including more information, including:
 - a. Increased educational materials (workshops, short tutorials)
 - b. An expansive FAQs section to address many common questions that cross our desks
 - c. A 'chat now' button so you can get immediate answers to questions unaddressed on our site
 - d. Sample submission that provide the precise language the review committee is looking for
6. We will be publishing monthly newsletters that summarize any changes that have been implemented, as well as announcing any upcoming changes **to keep communication open** between you and the IRB

How does this affect you?

- **Faster turnaround** time from submission to IRB decision
- **More support** for research teams in completing successful applications
- **Less burden** on research teams for onboarding and continued training
- **More information** to empower research team members in the responsible conduct of research
- **More efficient** communication between research teams and the IRB
- **Continual updates** to ensure you are aware of upcoming changes in advance of implementation of those changes

The goal of our resolution is to better serve the research community by making ourselves more accessible to you, and available for consults or educational webinars for your team. We resolve to decrease turn-around times and increase community engagement. And maybe even hit the gym once in a while.

All our best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022!