Research Ethics Consultation Service

What is the Research Ethics Consultation Service?

The Research Ethics Consultation Service is a free service available to all biomedical researchers at the University of California Davis who seek advice regarding ethically complex aspects of their biomedical research. The service is available to assist investigators throughout the life of a research project: during the initial design phase; grant application preparation; IRB application process regarding ethics-related questions and concerns; study implementation; data analysis; manuscript preparation; and dissemination of findings. The service is also available to investigators and their teams who may want to review past research projects that posed ethical challenges and how they responded to those challenges.

What are the kinds of issues that the Research Ethics Consultation Service can help with?

Examples of the kind of questions that the consultation service might assist with include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Am I confident that the anticipated benefits of my research will outweigh its risks?
- How do I know if the consent process that I am anticipating using for my research is the most appropriate one, given special characteristics of my research population?
- Should I do anything about the fact that my research is controversial in the eyes of many in the public?
- How should authorship be assigned on manuscripts?

How does this service differ from the IRB and other campus research committees?

The Research Ethics Consultation Service is not a replacement for IRB review, nor is it an arm of the IRB or any other university research oversight committee. However, like every other unit at the University, these other groups can utilize the services of the Research Ethics Consultation Service.

Who staffs the research ethics consultation service?

The Research Ethics Consultation Service is staffed by faculty affiliated with the UC Davis Bioethics Program. It may also draw upon clinical and other investigators with significant research ethics expertise.

To request assistance from the Research Ethics Consultation Service, please contact Mark Yarborough at:

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