WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Institutional Review Board

Office of Compliance

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TO:                 Investigators, Research Coordinators, WKU Research Community

FROM:          WKU IRB

SUBJECT:    Introducing IRBNet

The WKU IRB and the Office of Compliance are pleased to announce the adoption of the industry leading IRBNet suite of tools, bringing electronic protocol management, on-line submissions, and many other important features to the Western Kentucky University research community.  The WKU IRB and the Western Kentucky University research community have long recognized the need to reduce manual and paper-based procedures, streamline protocol submission and review processes, and leverage today’s best technologies throughout the research lifecycle.  As an important step toward these objectives, the WKU IRB adoption of IRBNet now brings the Western Kentucky University community a robust set of electronic tools supporting the management, submission, review, and oversight of our research protocols.  Some of IRBNet’s many features include electronic document management, web-based protocol sharing, collaboration, automatic notifications, electronic submissions, reviews, important audit capabilities (including electronic revision histories), electronic signatures, and event tracking.

The WKU IRB and the Office of Compliance has carefully chosen IRBNet not only for the important capabilities that it provides, but also because IRBNet is secure, web-based, and extremely intuitive and easy to use.  You may access IRBNet from virtually any computer using a web browser by visiting [www.irbnet.org](http://www.irbnet.org/).  You will self-register as part of the Western Kentucky University community and begin using these exciting new tools soon.  Please find the attached instructions of the IRBNet Training Energizers and information about other training and assistance to help you get started.

The WKU IRB will begin accepting electronic protocol submissions via IRBNet beginning on **November 8, 2011**, all protocols (including revisions and renewals) must be submitted electronically via IRBNet, and all review decision letters will be issued electronically via IRBNet. Please make your students aware of the upcoming changes

Once again, the WKU IRB is pleased to bring these robust new tools to the Western Kentucky University community.  For additional information please contact the Office of Compliance at 270-745-2129 who can assist you with any questions you may have as we move forward with this important initiative.

Sincerely,

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