



UTEP
RESEARCH & INNOVATION



Research Compliance & Regulatory Services Newsletter Eighth Edition

Dear Colleagues,

Hello and welcome to the eighth edition of our quarterly newsletter. We in Research Compliance and Regulatory Services are committed to upholding the highest standards of research compliance through a culture of service, accountability, and ethical responsibility. The fall semester is almost upon us and soon the campus will be alive with activity again! I invite you to read through it and join us in expanding our knowledge of research compliance and security, as well as celebrating the accomplishments of fellow researchers.



In our eighth issue, we cover topics ranging from our educational outreach and departmental forums, to how to protect your research and research career, and a recent publication by several UTEP faculty involving the role of community level support in reducing stigma associated with mental illness in veterans.

Thank you for all that you do to advance research at UTEP. We welcome any recommendations on research highlights, tips, and learning opportunities to promote in future issues.

Go Miners!

Elaine Joseph, Ph.D. C.P.I.A.

Associate Vice President, Research Compliance & Regulatory Services

Top Story

Increasing Educational Outreach to Departments and Colleges

Research Compliance & Regulatory Services' mission is to support research faculty and students through a customer service-based approach to research compliance and research protection. Embedding service and accountability into all of our daily work transforms research compliance and security from a checklist into a shared commitment to excellence and responsibility to research integrity. In order to increase visibility, answer your questions, and educate you on the latest developments, research compliance and research protections team members have begun developing a host of educational presentations to increase awareness and answer questions on issues related to human subjects research, research security issues, international travel and foreign collaborations, and research with biological agents. We will be working to bring this information to colleges and departments in the coming months through "Meet and Greet" events where your faculty can meet our team members and ask questions.

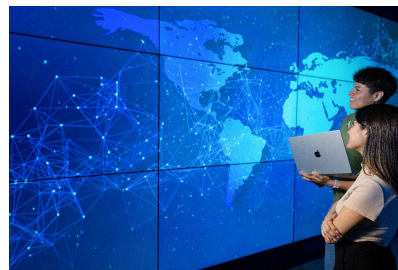
We invite you to contact us directly to schedule a Research Compliance and Research Protections Meet and Greet for your next faculty departmental or college meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

[Email Dr. Joseph Here](#)

Did You Know?

Wondering about Foreign Collaboration? Let us Help.

Are you aware of the changing stance and guidelines from federal agencies regarding foreign collaborations? If you are unaware of these standards and how they are evolving, take a moment and read these two short articles on **NIH** and **NASA's** guidelines on foreign collaborations.



The changing federal guidance related to foreign collaborations can be confusing, making it difficult to understand how your research and career are viewed through the lens of funding agencies. Understanding the perceived "health" of your researcher profile is critical for your career, especially when it comes to maximizing your chances for federal research funding.

Good news! The Office of Research Protections can give you an overview of what your body of work may look like to an outside funding agency. Please consider visiting us for a "Publication Wellness Check". We can show you your researcher profile and point out any areas you should consider disclosing to funding agencies. For more information, please contact Research Protections directly at foreigninf@utep.edu or ExportControl@utep.edu.

[Email UFI Here](#)

[Email Export Control Here](#)

Compliance Updates

The Launch of eProtocol for Human Subjects Research

In the fall of 2024, nearly two years ago, Key Solutions software launched with eProtocol for IACUC and eAnimal Ordering for animal orders and census. In 2025 we added IBC to eProtocol and recently, we rounded out eProtocol by adding IRB. This software allows researchers to submit and amendment all compliance protocols in one platform on online, interactive forms.



The Human Subjects Research or IRB Office will be holding a three training events per month from September 2026 through December 2026. All training events will be held in person and space can be reserved on **MineTracker**. For more information, please feel free to contact the office directly at IRB@utep.edu. We thank all of our researchers for their patience as we navigate this new software together.

[Email IRB Here](#)

LARC News

Protecting Faculty, Students, and Staff from Hazards

Chemotherapeutic agents and other drugs are often explored for their design, effectiveness, and ways to improve human health. However, there is often a misconception that a drug deemed safe for human

use has little to no hazards associated with its use in the laboratory. Our LARC team, in collaboration with Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) wants to improve your safety when using potentially hazardous chemicals in the vivarium. LARC and EH&S will begin implementing a new initiative to improve safety for faculty, staff, and students that includes new door placards that inform researchers and staff of the potential chemical hazards found in a given animal housing room. These new door signs will indicate the type of personal protective equipment or PPE needed to work safely in the room, biological or chemical risk level, and more. Faculty and their labs will be trained on this new initiative in the coming weeks.



The LARC team is continually working on improvements to ensure the safety of our research community. For more information on the improvements to hazard containment practices, email LARC directly at LARC@utep.edu.

[Email LARC Here](#)

In the News

The Importance of Community-Based Support Systems in Reducing Social Stigma to Mental Health Care in Veterans

Mental illness is an ongoing crisis affecting more than one billion individuals world-wide and veterans are more prone to mental illness, often experiencing more post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicidal ideation. Drs. Emre Umucu, Guillermina Solis, and Beatrice Lee, along with graduate Rebecca Campa, and colleagues from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, published a study in the May 2026 issue of BMC Psychiatry examining the role of neighborhood climate in reducing public stigma among veterans with mental illness. They examined over 150 veterans diagnosed with mental illness creating a Neighborhood Climate Questionnaire (NCQ) and analyzed the association of this questionnaire with mental health. Results indicated that the NCQ was significantly positively associated with personal wellbeing and significantly negatively associated with depression, validating the usefulness of the questionnaire. Further analysis demonstrated that veterans who had supportive neighborhoods reported lower levels of public stigma. This study plays an important role in extending self-determination theory to a neighborhood context and highlights the importance community level support may play in mental illness

To read the complete article click below.

[Read the Article Here](#)



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