**Research Ethics for Clinical Fellows - A New PGME Online Learning Module**

Clinical fellowship training often involves a research component, with the clinical fellow expected to participate in the writing of peer-reviewed publications and/or be involved in studies with researchers at the University-affiliated hospital site. In these activities, the clinical fellow will need to be able to analyze and interpret data from their studies and to be aware of the requirements for any study that involves patients.

The website of the University of Toronto Vice President, Research and Innovation, contains important information about research ethics and protections (<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/faculty-and-staff/research-ethics-and-protections/>).

Research involving human participants conducted by faculty members and graduate learners under the auspices of the University of Toronto must be reviewed and approved by a University of Toronto Research Ethics Board (REB) prior to its commencement.

All of the Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) hospitals have their own, independent REBs. All hospital-based researchers must submit human participant research protocols to their respective hospital REB for review, as well as to the REBs of all hospitals involved in the research. Researchers should also submit protocols to their appropriate University of Toronto REB if recruitment, intervention or interaction with human participants will be done on campus.

To promote awareness and understanding of research ethics issues by clinical fellows, PGME is making an online Research Ethics module freely accessible to clinical fellows at <http://postgrad.med.utoronto.ca/re/>.

The Research Ethics module was originally created for CIPCorEd, a comprehensive online program that enables residents enrolled in the Clinician Investigator Program (CIP) to learn professional skills essential to the clinician investigator.

The module provides learners with a comprehensive review of research ethics issues, including those of consent, capacity, and confidentiality, as well as conflicts of interest, obligation and bias. A survey of the research ethics regulatory environment is a feature of the module. Clinical fellows who wish to explore any of these issues in greater depth can do so independently through the module’s many external links to online resources.

*This module does NOT replace any mandatory modules, training or compulsory materials as required by the affiliated health care institution or research institute where they are engaged.*

PGME is offering the module as an optional resource for clinical fellows. Completion of the module will not result in a PGME record or certificate of completion.

Please encourage those trainees registered in clinical fellowships whose educational goals and objectives include a research component to consult PGME’s Research Ethics module online at <http://postgrad.med.utoronto.ca/re/>. I hope the module will be a useful and effective resource to clinical fellows in their research studies.

Sincerely,

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