Establishing a Framework for Student Research in a Non-Academic Setting
Anita E. Pascoe, MS, CIP; Shelby Moench
Intermountain Healthcare

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Problem Statement: Our IRB, which primarily processes biomedical protocols, did over the course of the last two years receive a large volume of student research applications for capstone projects, survey studies, and other social, behavioral research projects. We could not effectively facilitate these reviews with existing resources. This poster will examine how our institution reviewed, initiated, and completed the process of building a comprehensive framework for reviewing and processing academic student research projects in our non-academic setting.

Description of the Research: First, we determined who (which departments) should be involved in the process of building our new framework. Key decision makers met and mapped out a basic assessment plan and agreed on a basic interdepartmental communication process to ensure that all affiliated departments had access to timely updates and information. We vetted the communication process with key staff in each department. Then, we developed check lists for each department involved with processing student projects. We also designed and disbursed student resource documents detailing information about regulatory requirements, institutional policies, and other important data. We started an online document library to distribute research tools and project resources and developed a comprehensive education plan. We contacted nursing leadership at our facilities and provided information about our new student research framework and distributed information to our wider research community via corporate newsletters and website updates.

Next Steps: The process is continuously monitored and evaluated using data reports obtained through querying our research management system and from online surveys of students.