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• Background

Inter American University of Puerto Rico is a private nonprofit Hispanic Serving Higher Education institution of Christian heritage. The academic offering includes Associate, Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral degrees. The institution has been moving slowly from a teaching institution towards a research institution particularly in the Social and Behavioral Sciences field. The amount of protocols our IRB receives ranges between one hundred fifty and two hundred. **About 90% of those are from graduate students and 10% from researchers.** In recent years the amount of protocols that our IRB has been receiving using social media as a mean to: recruit participants or gather and analyze information or data has been steadily increasing, particularly among graduate students from the social behavioral sciences and business administration fields.

The Challenge

• **New ground** for our IRB
• How will the IRB handle the review of these protocols
• Main purpose for what social media venues are to be used
• Student’s knowledge on how to ensure privacy, confidentiality of participants

Findings:

- Students who use this type of venue do it so for convenience in terms of both recruitment and gathering data
- Students believe that this type of medium is completely SAFE in terms of protecting the identity of the participant
- Most include the link to the research protocol in their personal social media pages

What are we doing

Request Information
Evaluate & Interview
Student/Mentor & IRB
Training

Improve IRB Tools and Develop Institutional Norms to address social media research