

Research Ethics Board Annual Report to the BCIT Board of Governors (2016)

Introduction

BCIT's Research Ethics Board (REB) operates under BCIT Policy 6500.^(1,2) All research projects involving human participants or human biological materials undertaken by members of the BCIT community fall within the jurisdiction of the BCIT REB. Projects conducted by researchers from outside the BCIT community who access Institute resources (equipment, facilities, personnel, or participants) also fall within the jurisdiction of the BCIT REB when those projects involve human participants or human biological materials. The REB reports directly to the Board of Governors and is administratively responsible to the Vice President, Academic.

In carrying out its responsibility to review and approve research projects, the REB ensures that research involving human participants under the auspices of BCIT is done with due regard for ethical principles. BCIT's REB adheres to the principles set out in the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS) which sets the national standards that are followed across Canada. REB members are aware that research done under the auspices of BCIT carries an implied liability, and must therefore meet the highest ethical standards.

Besides protecting the interests of human participants, REB review enables BCIT researchers to maintain their eligibility for national and international research funding. In addition, the REB contributes to education in research ethics for faculty, staff and students.

Reviewing Applications

The BCIT REB reviewed 28 applications in 2016. Applicants seeking ethics approval completed a comprehensive application form⁽³⁾ and submitted all relevant supporting documentation.

The review process involved first determining whether the project was "minimal risk." To be deemed minimal risk the project exposed the participants to no greater harm than they would normally encounter in their daily lives. Projects that exceeded minimal risk were reviewed by the full REB, whereas minimal risk projects were reviewed by a delegated review panel of two REB members. All of the clinical and behavioural applications reviewed in 2016 were deemed to be of minimal risk by the Chair in consultation with the board and other REBs. Several applications were student clinical projects and were circulated to the full REB for feedback.

Following REB review, applicants were informed of any revisions required, once revisions were made, projects were approved for a period of one year.

Approximately 49 requests were received for information on REB application, including meetings with prospective applicants and groups of students, leading to 28 applications. Out of the 28 files opened, 27 were approved and the remaining one was withdrawn by the applicant, who decided not to pursue the project. The approval of one study was temporarily suspended pending review of privacy measures. The number of applications in 2016 increased 60% from our historical average of 17 applications per year, leading the board to increase its membership to meet the demand.

In 2016, 18 (64%) of the applicants were from BCIT. BCIT applicants were members of faculty conducting research, faculty and staff working towards postgraduate degrees at other institutions, and researchers in Applied Research conducting contract research projects for external clients. The remaining ten outside applications came from researchers completing graduate work at other institutions, those conducting research involving students or faculty as participants, and those collaborating with BCIT faculty and staff. The increase in external applicants from four to ten accounted for the majority of the increased annual workload of the board.

Reviewing REB Policy and Procedures

Policy 6500 and procedures^(1,2) were reviewed in 2016 to comply with changes in TCPS and reporting requirements of funding agencies.⁽⁴⁾ We hope to finalize those revisions and submit the changes to the Leadership Team and Board of Governors in the first half of 2017. At the start of 2016 the REB began storing all records and reviewing applications on SharePoint. Records previous to 2016 are archived in paper form following BCIT records management policy and procedure (Policy 6701).

Continuing education

To keep the board's knowledge of privacy and research ethics current, one or more board members are given the opportunity to attend the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards (CAREB) annual meeting and report back to the board. This year, the Chair attended the national meeting and reported back to the board. Board members also participated in a workshop at BCIT entitled "How to review a protocol," written by the Office of Research Ethics at McMaster University.

REB Membership

The members of the REB at the close of 2016 were: Meena Amlani (Faculty, Medical Radiography Technology), Francine Anselmo (Faculty, Medical Radiography Technology), Lori Becker (Member knowledgeable in law; Instructor, Department of Business Administration), and Michael Bourke (Member knowledgeable in ethics; Program Head, Liberal Studies), John Brohman (Instructor, Computing), Glynda Doyle (Instructor, Bachelor of Science Nursing Program), Funda Isbuga Erel (Research and Information Analyst, Institutional Planning & Analysis), Roger Gale (Instructor, Computer Information Systems Administration), Katherine Golder (Instructor, Communication), Michelle Hawkins (Member knowledgeable in ethics; Instructor, Liberal Studies), Tessa Jordan (Instructor, Communications), Stefan Joseph (Project Leader, Applied Research Liaison Office), Allison Kirschenmann (Instructor, Basic Health Sciences), and Hal Weinberg (External member; Professor Emeritus, Simon Fraser University). The board is supported by Jenna Clews, ARLO-Administrative Assistant Liaison Office/REB administrator.

Three new members joined the board in 2016 to help us review the increasing number of studies: Meena Amlani, Francine Anselmo, and Michelle Hawkins.

The REB meets regularly every second month. Minutes of the meetings are kept.

Signed

Allison Kirschenmann
BCIT REB Chair

References

- (1) <http://www.bcit.ca/files/pdf/policies/6500.pdf>
- (2) <http://www.bcit.ca/files/pdf/policies/6500procedures.pdf>
- (3) <http://www.bcit.ca/appliedresearch/ethics/guidelines.shtml>
- (4) <https://www.careb-accr.org/content/release-carebn2-reb-sops>

REB Project No.	Project Title	Principle Investigator (PI)	PI's Institution	Position	Project Funder
2016-01	Pre and post assessment of a prosthetic and orthotic treatment: A health-related quality of life questionnaire using OPUS	Amber Major	BCIT	Student	N/A
2016-02	Clinical Perceptions on the use of a Digital Outcome Measures Tool in Prosthetics and Orthotics	Anna Kruithof and Jasmine Slomp	BCIT	Students	N/A
2016-03	Determination of posture and fasting effects on the reproducibility of readings from a new instrument estimating vascular-age	Edmond Zahedi	BCIT	Faculty	Internal BCIT
2016-04	Will the Ossur Iceross seal-in X adjustable liner allow higher socket comfort and product satisfaction among transtibial prosthesis users	Christine Richardson & Patrick Smith	BCIT	Students	N/A
2016-05	Interface design to test acceptance of equipment/utility controlled charging to align EV charging	AnnaLisa Meyboom	UBC	Assistant Professor	UVIC & Province of BC MEM
2016-06	Investigating Contemporary Religiously Unaffiliated Spirituality in Cascadia	Samantha Bahan	UVIC	Student	N/A
2016-07	Perceptions of Peer Review using Cloud-based Software: e.g. Google Docs.	Gjoa Andrichuck	BCIT	Communication Instructor	N/A
2016-08	The Applied Teaching Workshop: Reflections on Practice	Mary Wilson	BCIT	Instructional Development Consultant	N/A
2016-09	Evaluation of artificial X-ray images on radiation reduction during use of a mobile C-arm in orthopaedic surgery applications	Michele Touchette	UBC	Research Assist. & Grad Student	NSERC & CIHR
2016-10	Enhancing Safety Culture: BCIT's School of Construction and the Environment	Don Naides	BCIT	Chief Instructor	N/A

2016-11	Review of BC Insulators' Low Carbon Construction Initiative	Dr. John Calvert	SFU	Associate Professor	SSHRC Grant (Noted in SFU Ethics App)
2016-12	Into the future: Changing roles and academic librarianship	Alicia Copp Mokkonen	VCC	Public Services Librarian	N/A
2016-13	A Study of a Teaching and Learning Centre in a Post-secondary Educational Institution	Raymond Yu	BCIT	Program Coordinator	N/A
2016-14	Prosthetics and Orthotics: Feedback on Research Priorities	Silvia Raschke	BCIT	Project Leader	N/A
2016-15	Teaching experiences of BSN Nurse Educators	Michelle D. Penny	SFU	EdD Candidate/BCIT BSN Instructor	N/A
2016-16	Evaluation of AXIS as a radiographic educational training tool for medical radiation technologists	Tiffany Ngo	UBC	UBC Research Assistant & Grad. Student	NSERC/CIHR
2016-17	A Study of Educational Institutions' Processes and Resources addressing Bullying Experienced by Nursing and Health Care Professional (HCP) Students	Katherine L. O'Flynn-Magee	UBC		Internal Funds
2016-18	MOBI-WALK – Focus group on novel walking aid	Johanne Mattie	BCIT	Project Lead	NRC-IRAP
2016-19	From passively watching to actively learning: Videx, a robust video player that supports learning from personalized video	Matthew Fong	UBC	Student	N/A
2016-20	Impact of Disabled Sailing	Ben Mortenson	Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy		N/A
2016-21	Modifying prosthetic foot parameters and comparing amputee-dependent and amputee-independent effects	Silvia Raschke	BCIT	Project Lead	Student project: in-kind - MAKE+ & Barber

2016-22	The Making of Entrepreneurs in Post-Secondary Educational Institutions	Melanie Knight	Ryerson University		
2016-23	Implementing a Reading Group Within Overlapping Communities of Practice of Ironworker Apprentices to Build Transformative Agency	Michael McKoryk	BCIT	Chief Instructor	N/A
2016-24	Self, peer and faculty evaluation of students' health communication skill – a pilot study of nursing students in British Columbia	Suzanne Campbell	UBC	Director	Simulation Research Grant of the British Columbia...
2016-25	Pediatric Emergency Room Simulation User Testing (PER Sim User Testing)	Johanne Mattie	BCIT	Project Leader	BCIT
2016-26	Assessment Of The Use Of The Online Learning Platform Top Hat In The Instruction Of Relational And Sectional Anatomy	Philip Wong	BCIT	Faculty	N/A
2016-27	Building sustainability into indoor climate systems--Study of the Occupant Dimension of Building Performance	Rodrigo Mora	BCIT	Faculty	N/A
2016-28	Enhancing student writing through peer tutoring	Janet Zlotnik	BCIT	Project Leader	N/A