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**Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
and
Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics
in Research and Health Care**

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Highlighting the Importance of the
Non-Affiliated (Community) Member



How can a non-affiliated member change things for their own committee?

- Ask other committee members to help
- Ask your IRB Administrator to help
- Ask for information about IRB/HSP conferences
- Be persistent
- Make specific, reasonable requests
- Take the initiative
- Follow up after any progress is made
- Document the changes/success



“Community Members” want...

- Training
- Mentoring
- Respect
- Feedback
- A sense of community



Training

- Historical perspective
- General technical information
- Specific skills for reviewing a protocol
- Instruction on how to present their comments during a meeting
- An understanding of how their specific IRB committee works



Mentoring

- New IRB members should be assigned to a veteran who will assist with first reviews and sit next to them during meetings to explain how a typical meeting is run.



Respect

- New members are often unsure of the value of their participation. It is the responsibility of the Chair and veteran members to encourage a new member's involvement during their learning phase. A member who feels intimidated does not participate fully.



Feedback

- Many non-affiliated members are not sure what is expected of them.
- They wonder if they are doing a good job.
- Supplemental training is welcome.



Sense of Community

- Unaffiliated members do not have the built-in peer system of the other institutional committee members.
- E-mail and phone contact should be encouraged.
- Opportunities to network with other non-affiliated members should be provided (e.g.local gatherings or larger conferences).



PRIM&R Conference 2006

“Community Member Track”

- History of Human Subject Protection
- What does a “lay person” bring to the table?”
- The Psychology of an IRB meeting
- Exactly how do I review a protocol?
- “Ask the Chair”
- “Meet Your Peers” support group meeting



Recruit, Train, Retain

- Recruit from communities or organizations who have a personal desire to become involved.
- Honor them with adequate training and support to do their job.
- Keep them happy by offering respect and acknowledgement.



Nurture their passion!

Thank you.