Talking about research…..

Good science and scholarship is conducted ethically; this includes personal conduct and professional standards as well as research ethics.

- What are research ethics and why do they matter?
- What is involved in ethics review?
- Who is responsible for research ethics?
- When do you get ethics approval?
Why ethics review?

Previous abuses in human experimentation have led to guidelines for the ethical treatment of human participants

- German experimentation on Jewish prisoners in WWII
- The Tuskegee Experiment (1932-1972)
- MK ULTRA (CIA) (1950 – 1970s) - McGill studies on sensory deprivation, LSD and ECT

Ongoing public concern about use of animals in science
What needs ethics review?

Ethics approval is needed BEFORE the research starts for

- research involving living human participants, their data and/or responses from participants to interventions, stimuli or questions by the researcher;
- research human biological materials, whether derived from living and or identifiable deceased individuals
- all research, teaching and testing involving animals (cephalopoda or higher)

Research is defined as an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation
Applicable Policy – Human Research

UAPPOL – Human Research Ethics Policy
https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.asp?PID=48


UAPPOL: University of Alberta Research and Scholarship Integrity Policy
https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.asp?PID=70

Various Other Regulations Depending on type of research (Biomedical/Health) and funding (ie. US NIH), Health Information Act
Applicable Policy – Animal Research

UAPPOL – Animal Ethics Policy

Canadian Council on Animal Care in science (CCAC)
www.ccac.ca
What’s involved?

Ethics review is geared toward protecting participants or subjects by minimizing the harms or risk to which they are exposed.

REB reviews for risk/benefit, consent, screening/recruitment procedures, methodology, sample size (e.g. can you find the number of subjects required?) and data management.

Animal use in research, teaching, and testing is acceptable ONLY if it promises to contribute to understanding of fundamental biological principles, or to the development of knowledge that can reasonably be expected to benefit humans or animals.
What needs review?

All human participant research and animal research, teaching and testing under University jurisdiction (conducted by staff or students) requires approval whether

• it is funded or is non-funded;
• it is conducted in Canada or abroad;
• it is conducted on University property or off;
• it is conducted in a laboratory or in the field;
• it is conducted to acquire basic or applied knowledge;
• the research is a pilot study or a fully developed project

WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT!!
When?

- Ethics approval has to be obtained **BEFORE** the research begins and, in the case of funded research, **BEFORE** funds are released.
- Approval has to be **maintained** (renewed annually) for the duration of the research activity.
- Changes to the approved research must be approved by the REB or ACUC before they are implemented.
Who?

- Ethics requirements apply to all research conducted by staff and students
- The principal investigator (faculty member) is responsible for obtaining ethics approval. For human participant health research, students may be co-investigators or study staff.
- Problems may be reported to or by REO but are investigated by the Provost or Faculty
Don’t let this be you…..

- Your supervisor says you don’t need ethics review

- Your supervisor has approval for a project. Your research is similar to theirs and uses the same participant population – so your research has ethics approval

- You are hired as a consultant to conduct research – the report lists your credentials as “University of Alberta PhD student”

- You started an application but it didn’t get approved before you left Edmonton to conduct the research, you’ll finish it up when you get back
Questions

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Research & Ethics Management Online (REMO) System

https://remo.ualberta.ca