

# The Heat of Summer: Managing Visiting Summer Student Researchers

Authors: Carissa Minder, RN, BSN, CIP and Martha F. Jones, MA, CIP

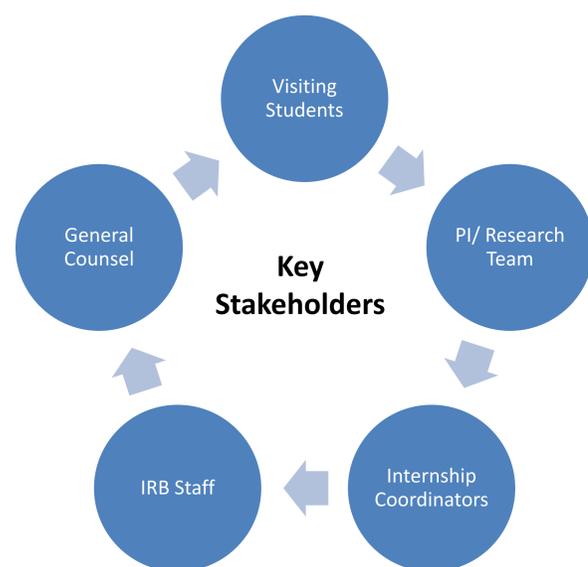
## Background:

Every summer hundreds of visiting student researchers participate in human subjects research at other institutions for short periods of time.

Some institutions- including Washington University in St. Louis- require either an Individual Investigator Agreement with visiting students or an IRB Authorization Agreement with their institution before the student is allowed to engage in any human subjects research.

This can hinder the students' learning experience as the agreement process can be lengthy and burdensome.

Over the last three years, the Human Research Protection Office has undertaken the task of improving the experience of researchers and HRPO staff in onboarding summer student research team members.

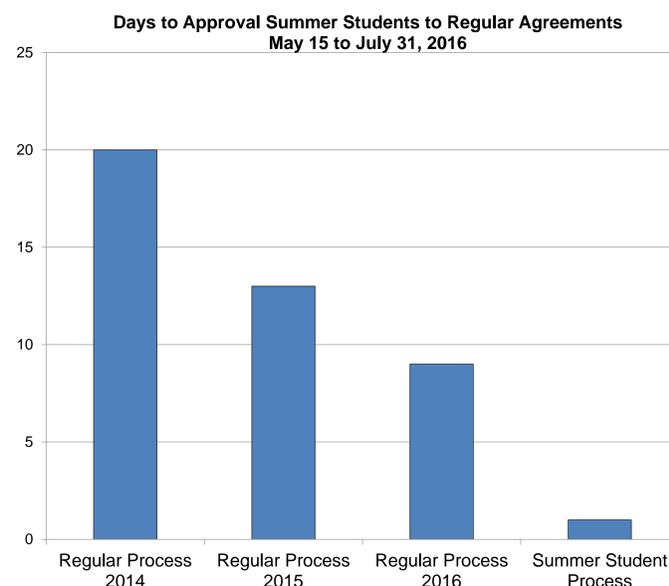


Problem		Process Change		Outcome
A new IIA or IAA developed for each student added to a study.	➔	IRB Staff and General Counsel created a template Summer Student IIA for use with all summer students	➔	Research teams have agreement available to use even before student arrives on campus or during regular student onboarding process
Process was poorly understood by many IRB staff and research staff including various misconceptions on who could participate in summer research activities	➔	FAQ and process information developed and posted on website. Information emailed directly to faculty and departments impacted each year during the Spring student selection process for summer programs	➔	IRB Staff and research community had better understanding of process and activities the summer students could participate in
Students were on campus a limited amount of time and were missing out on research due to agreement processing time	➔	Agreement was reviewed and signed by students and PIs prior to the submission of the request to add students to the study team.	➔	Requests to add students to study team were processed very quickly by the IRB office

## Summer 2016 By the Numbers

- Dates Agreements Accepted: May 15 to July 31
- Number of agreements processed: 147
- Days from submission to approval: 1

## Indicators of Success



## Long Term Challenges:

- IRB staff turn over and changing of duties makes it difficult to train as this is only for a limited amount of time each year.
- Having dedicated IRB staff for this time period each year is difficult.
- Research staff turn over presents challenges in learning process and knowing expectations.