



IRB Guidance: Collaborative Research

Collaboration/Multi-Site Research

Campbell University researchers may engage in collaborative research with individuals and organizations outside of Campbell University. Often circumstances require agreements between collaborators to be in place prior to conducting research activities with human subjects. This page provided guidance on the most common agreements used in collaborative/multi-site research.

IRB Authorization Agreements (IAA)

When more than one institution with an established FederalWide Assurance (FWA) and an established Institutional Review Board (IRB) collaborate in research, an agreement may be established to designate one IRB to serve as the IRB of record for the research. An investigator may pursue and IRB Authorization Agreement (IAA) by completing and submitting an [IRB Authorization Agreement \(IAA\) Request Form](#) and supporting materials to the [IRB Office](#).

Example:

- A federally project that has been awarded to a Principal Investigator at an External Institution with its own IRB which has approved the project. A Campbell University investigator has been listed as a co-investigator and research activities will be conducted at Campbell University.

Individual Investigator Agreement (IIA)

When a non-Campbell University individual is engaged in the human subject research and their work is not performed as an agent of an institution with an established FederalWide Assurance (FWA), it may be necessary to establish an Individual Investigator Agreement (IIA). An investigator may pursue and IRB Individual Investigator Agreement (IIA) by completing and submitting an [IRB Individual Investigator Agreement \(IIA\) Request Form](#). This form needs to be included with the new protocol submission or an amendment submission if an individual is being added to an existing protocol.

Example:

- A Campbell University investigator would like to conduct research at a physical therapy clinic and the clinic is not affiliated with an institution with a FederalWide Assurance (FWA) and IRB and there are no Campbell University faculty on staff.

Letters of Support

When projects are conducted in whole or in part at sites external to Campbell University, project teams are requested to provide letters (or emails) of support from those sites. The purpose of a letter of support is to provide documentation to the CU IRB that the site is aware of the project activities that will be conducted at that site and it supports participation in the project.



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For further details regarding letters of support please see [IRB Guidance: Letters of Support from External Sites](#) and [IRB Guidance: Research Involving K-12 or Higher Education Schools](#).

Other Collaborations

Other agreements may be entered into as part of collaborative research such as Memos of Understanding (MOUs) and Data Use Agreements (DUAs). These agreements can include parameters for the conduct of research relevant to human subjects research and permission for use of data and/or biospecimens and may need to be considered as part of the IRB review. These may require consultation with Campbell University's General Council.

For additional information regarding Collaborative Research please see [IRB Investigator Manual](#) and the [IRB SOP: Reliance Agreements for Multi-Site Projects](#) and [IRB SOP: Conducting Multi-site \(s\)IRB Research and Investigator Responsibilities](#). to, located on the [IRB website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the [IRB Office](#).