International Research Review

Research conducted in foreign countries under the auspices of Birmingham-Southern College remains under BSC IRB purview and guidelines. The standards for ethical conduct of research or for a meaningful consent process may be adapted to cultural and/or religious norms as appropriate with justification provided with the request for review. Requests for waivers of written consent should also be justified in terms of adaptation to the norms of the locale where the research will be conducted. The "International Compilation of Human Research Protections" is a resource that may be consulted for known international research protections. When a country or institution abroad has an equivalent to an IRB, research projects must have been approved by that local equivalent board before they are presented to the BSC IRB. Where there is no equivalent board or group, investigators must demonstrate that they have obtained approval from local experts or community leaders. The IRB requires documentation of this "local approval" before it approves a project. Principal investigators and research assistants for international research must complete CITI training modules in Cultural Competence in Research and International Studies in addition to the appropriate basic courses in either Social & Behavioral Research or Bio-Medical Research.