

## **HREB ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Health Research Ethics Board (HREB), appointed by the Health Research Ethics Authority (HREA), is responsible for the ethical review, approval and subsequent monitoring of applications for health research projects involving human subjects in Newfoundland and Labrador. Currently, there are three HREB subcommittees; one for clinical trials (HREB-CT), one for genetics and genomics research (HREB-GG) and one for all other health research (HREB-NCT).

As per the HREB Terms of Reference, the following annual report has been prepared for HREA Board of Directors.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

There was turnover in the HREB membership throughout the fiscal year. Each subcommittee remained compliant with Article 6.4 of the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (TCPS 2)* and consisted of:

- a. at least two members with expertise in relevant research disciplines, fields and methodologies covered by the HREB;
- b. at least one member knowledgeable in ethics;
- c. at least one member knowledgeable in the relevant law, and
- d. at least one community member who has no affiliation with the institution.

The list of current HREB members is available on the HREA website under the HREB tab. The changes in membership between April 2021 and March 2022 were as follows:

New Members Added: 5

- Content Experts: 4
- Knowledgeable in Ethics: 1

Member Resignations: 8

- Content Experts: 6
- Knowledgeable in Ethics: 1
- Knowledgeable in Privacy: 1

**NEW APPLICATIONS**

In the last fiscal year, the HREB adjudicated a total of 225 new research applications. All applications were reviewed within the 30 day decision requirement, as mandated by the HREA Act.

Number of applications reviewed by HREB-NCT: 162

Number of applications reviewed by HREB-CT: 54

Number of Genetics/Genomics applications reviewed: 9

**CONTINUING REVIEW**

Introduction: In the last fiscal year, the HREB adjudicated a grand total of 2016 events. The breakdown of these events is as follows:

Event	Quantity
Personnel Change Notification	433
Protocol Deviation Report	235
Other Event Form	137
Amendments	456
Renewals/Closures	488
Investigator Brochure Report	88
Safety Report	146
Serious Adverse Event Report	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2016</b>

**OPERATIONS**

HREB meetings are scheduled biweekly and are facilitated via distance technologies as required. One meeting is routinely cancelled for each subcommittee during the summer to accommodate summer vacation. Also, there are no HREB meetings scheduled during Memorial University’s Christmas break.

The meeting activity for the 2021-22 fiscal year was as follows:

**1. HREB-NCT**

Total Scheduled Meetings: 24

Total Cancelled Meetings: 4\*

Total Meetings Held: 20

\*Meetings cancelled due to absence of studies requiring full board review. December 30<sup>th</sup> meeting cancelled due to Christmas holidays.

## 2. HREB-CT

Total scheduled Meetings: 27

Total Cancelled Meetings: 2\*

Total Meetings Held: 25

\* Meetings cancelled due to absence of studies requiring full board review.

## 3. HREB-GG

Total scheduled Meetings: 25

Total Cancelled Meetings: 15\*

Total Meetings Held: 10

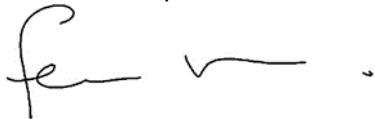
\*Meetings cancelled due to absence of studies requiring full Board review. December 28<sup>th</sup> cancelled for Christmas holidays.

## CHAIR COMMENTS

This was another successful year thanks to the dedicated staff at the HREA/B office. A special 'shout out' to Barb and Rob (Ethics Officers) and Joan (administrator). They consistently go above and beyond to keep the work of the REBs running efficiently. Their support and guidance makes our work as Chairs so much easier! And, of course, none of that would be possible without Sharon's leadership as Director.

As Chairs of the three REBs, we continue to be overwhelmed by the tremendous dedication of the volunteer researchers, clinicians, lawyers and ethicists who comprise the review Boards. Their generous commitment of time, their sensitivity to the needs of both research participants and researchers, and their tireless, ongoing, hard work done week after week to support research in our province, is truly remarkable. It is their dedication that has enabled Newfoundland and Labrador to support a robust and growing research milieu.

Onward and upward!



Fern Brunger (Chair, HREB-NCT)

On behalf of Paul Moorehead (Chair HREB-GG), Craig Pochini (Co-Chair, HREB-CT), Peter Daley (Co-Chair HREB-CT) and Joy Maddigan (Co-Chair, HREB-CT)