



# Department of Evaluation and Research Services

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2011 August 19

Ms. Laurel Evans  
Associate Director  
Research Ethics  
University of British Columbia  
102-6190 Agronomy Rd.  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3

Dear Ms. Evans

### RE: FHREB Review Process for UBC Affiliated Researcher Minimal Risk Studies

The Fraser Health Authority (FH) currently has affiliation agreements with 56 UBC academic researchers. The majority of their applications for ethical review meet the FHREB's criteria for minimal risk, and therefore receive Delegated Review.

Although the Delegated Review process does often generate Modification Memos, the FHREB has agreed that given the non-substantive nature of these modifications, there is little real value in requesting the UBC researcher to respond to the memo. Therefore, the FHREB has decided to accept the approval certificate from UBC-affiliated REBs as long as the Delegated Review process determines that the risks of the study do not outweigh the benefits, and as long as there are no other substantive issues concerning the protocol. Of course, the FHREB co-Chairs reserve the right to conduct a full Delegated Review or to refer a study to Full Board at any time.

A certificate of ethical approval will be issued for the study based on the documents submitted. If there are any comments arising from the Delegated Review that do not require a response from the UBC researcher, this will be included in a separate 'notice' as 'information only'.

The FHREB policy regarding the review of amendments and annual renewals remains unchanged.

We hope that this new process will help to meet the objectives of the BC Ethics Harmonization Process, as this change will be instituted for all academic researchers that are affiliated with the Fraser Health Authority. Please share this information with the UBC-affiliated REBs and Research Offices on our behalf.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Allan Belzberg  
FHREB co-Chairs  
Cc: Martin Schechter, Scientific Director, MSHFR

Dr. Marc Foulkes

<p><b>Fraser Health Authority Medicine</b> Department of Evaluation and Research Services <b>Fraser Health Research Ethics Board</b> <a href="http://research.fraserhealth.ca/home/">http://research.fraserhealth.ca/home/</a></p>	<p>300 – 10334 152A Street Surrey, BC V3R 7P8</p>	<p>Tel (604) 587-4436 Fax (604) 587-4665</p>
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