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WIRB International Fellows Program

Western Institutional Review Board

The first independent review board, Western Institutional Review Board® (WIRB) was founded in 1968 and remains the unrivaled leader in ethical review. Recognized as the gold standard of human subject protection, WIRB is the trusted partner to over 1,500 institutions in the United States alone, ranging from small community hospitals and research sites to large academic medical centers and universities. WIRB is also the largest global presence in the ethical review space, with a network of affiliates and fellows reviewing research around the world.

With 6 individual AAHRPP-accredited panels, over 130 experienced board members, and over 40 years of experience in protocol and study-related review, only WIRB has the capacity and expertise to provide custom solutions to meet the unique and highly specialized needs of its institutional partners.

WIRB's International Fellows Program in Research Ethics

WIRB's International Fellows Program is designed for global healthcare professionals who intend to establish or improve institutional review boards (IRBs) in their home countries. Our intensive six-month program- and its abbreviated two-month version- help participants to develop the knowledge necessary to create, manage, and/or administer IRBs that will operate in compliance with all relevant regulations and ethical standards intended to protect the rights and welfare of human research subjects.

WIRB's International Fellows Program now includes training in human research ethics at New York University (NYU) Langone Medical Center. The fellows will supplement their NYU coursework with practical training, mentorship and observation of actual IRB meetings at WIRB in Washington State.

The program was originally founded in 2002, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the University of Washington. To date, over 140 international fellows from across Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe have graduated from the program, and many have made significant contributions to the field of clinical research in their home countries.

WIRB International Fellows Program
1019 39th Avenue SE, Suite 120
Puyallup, WA 98374

Toll free: (800) 562-4789
Office: (360) 252-2500
Fax: (360) 252-2498
Email: fellowsprogram@wirb.com

Fellows Candidates

Candidates for the Fellows Program include health professionals, lawyers and bioethicists working to establish or strengthen human research protections outside of the United States. Any individuals who demonstrate a commitment to research and an interest in bioethics may apply. A selection committee will review the candidates' applications and award placement in the program to successful individuals.

Eligible candidates must possess:

- Operational knowledge of research procedures and methods
- Fluency in spoken and written English (Verbal proficiency will be assessed by a mandatory interview before final acceptance into the program)
- Bioethical responsibilities within the candidate's institution
- A decision/change-making role within the candidate's institution

Personalized support

WIRB provides personalized support to its fellows, including:

- Guidance for obtaining J1 Visa (six-month program) or B1/B2 Visa (two-month program)
- Housing arrangements (paid for by participant)
- Transportation to field trips and social events
- Information on local points of interest in Washington and New York

Training highlights

During the program, fellows will:

- Attend IRB meetings at WIRB
- Study human subject protection and regulations, learning about concepts such as vulnerability and confidentiality of research participants
- Receive bioethics lectures and training materials from WIRB and its affiliates at NIH and NYU
- Receive a certificate of completion from WIRB

Advantages of the program

In addition to their studies, fellows may choose to participate in WIRB-organized field trips to local and regional places of interest in the United States. After returning home, they will be members of WIRB's International Alumni Network, which will enable them to stay in touch with colleagues and friends in the U.S., and share valuable information about their community, culture, and growing ethics experience.

Following their training, many of WIRB's fellows have gone on to make significant contributions in the field of clinical research. One such example is that of a Fellow from Liberia who played a key role during the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa: he was appointed to the country's new National Research Ethics Board, which is now registered with the Office for Human Research Protections at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. He was also selected to serve on the regulatory and ethics team for the U.S.-Liberia Partnership for Research on Ebola Vaccines in Liberia, which is evaluating two candidate vaccines to prevent against Ebola.

How to apply

To apply to WIRB's International Fellows Program, please send a completed application form, letter of interest and current CV to:

fellowsprogram@wirb.com or

WIRB International Fellows Program

1019 39th Avenue SE, Suite 120
Puyallup, WA 98374 USA

The letter of interest should include a summary about the candidate's experience in research ethics, and a brief description of how the training program will enhance human subject protection in the candidate's home country. Access the application form at <http://www.wirb.com/Pages/GlobalServices.aspx>

Note: Training and educational materials for the WIRB International Fellows Program are provided at no cost to our international students. However, participants are responsible for their own round-trip airfare, housing expenses, and daily living expenses. Limited scholarships are available. Please see the program's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for more information.

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