

June 1, 2006

Dear Sick Kids Clinical Investigator:

Further to our letter dated September 12, 2005 and the introduction of mandatory research ethics training at Sick Kids, we are pleased to report that over 1,000 investigators and research staff have obtained their research ethics certification. This requirement is endorsed by the Research Institute leadership and the hospital's Medical Advisory Committee.

All investigators and co-investigators conducting prospective and retrospective research on human subjects will have to include evidence of ethics training as part of their application submission to the REB. This applies to all new applications, in addition to the annual re-approval of ongoing projects.

We are now ready to announce the next phase of this initiative. We propose to extend mandatory ethics training for all other research team members, including students, effective November 2006. Principal investigators will be responsible for ensuring that all of their research team members obtain training and submit their certificate to the REB office. This includes those staff who have contact with research subjects or access to identifying personal health information.

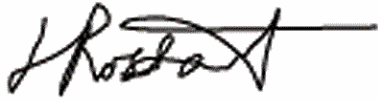
Ethics certification can be acquired by completing the online introductory tutorial for the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* (TCPS). TCPS is the joint research ethics policy of the three national granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC).

The tutorial can be found at <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/tutorial/> and covers the first five sections of the TCPS. The program has log-in and log-out capabilities, can be completed in approximately two hours, and includes case studies, a self-evaluation tool, and a printable certificate at completion.

This tutorial only needs to be completed once. The certificate of completion will be kept on file with the REB. Researchers and their team members who have already successfully completed the Sick Kids research ethics certification program (for NIH grant compliance) will not be required to complete the TCPS tutorial, but are welcome to do so.

While Canada does not currently have a mandatory research ethics training requirement like the U.S., Sick Kids sees research ethics training as a priority for all clinical researchers. Other institutions, such as the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, have also implemented mandatory research ethics training.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Rossant', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Janet Rossant, PhD, FRS, FRSC
Chief of Research
Lombard Insurance Chair in Paediatric Research
The Hospital for Sick Children

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desmond J. Bohn', with a large loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Desmond J. Bohn, MB, BCh, BAO, FFARCS, FRCPC, LMCC
Chair, Medical Advisory Committee
The Hospital for Sick Children