

# ***IN THE KNOW***

## **BULLETIN OF THE TUFTS SBER IRB MEDFORD CAMPUS**

### **The SBER IRB Administration Team Works for You**

Yvonne Wakeford, Jeanne Eisenhaure, and Martin LaVigne make up the new administration team for the Social, Behavioral and Educational Research (SBER) Institutional Review Board (IRB) on the Medford/Somerville Campus. The team's goal is to make the IRB process as researcher-friendly as possible while still fulfilling the board's mission of assuring adequate protection for human research subjects.

Yvonne Wakeford, PhD, joined the Office of the Vice Provost on a part-time basis in September 2006. (She is also a part-time instructor in the Department of Psychology.) As SBER IRB administrator, Yvonne assists investigators in the development and approval of human subject research protocols. Yvonne gained broad experience developing and submitting protocols to IRBs while earning her PhD in experimental psychology from Tufts University. This experience allows her to understand social science research protocols and offer advice. "Over the past six years, as a graduate student at Tufts University and while working at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center in Waltham, Massachusetts, on research involving children with mental retardation, I've had to submit to several IRBs, so I understand the process from the researcher's side," Yvonne comments. She knows how confusing IRB requirements can be and strives to make the process as clear and efficient as possible. Yvonne acts as a liaison between researchers and the IRB committee and ensures that protocols uphold federal, state, and institutional rules and regulations. She also conducts training on the development of human subject research protocols.



Yvonne's position is wholly dedicated to the SBER IRB, whereas Jeanne Eisenhaure and Martin LaVigne have other responsibilities within the Office of the Vice Provost. Jeanne joined the OVP in June 2006. She has experience in social science research, having earned a BS in psychology and a BA in political science from the University of Vermont. Jeanne especially likes to help investigators with the IRB process—to clarify misunderstandings, get paperwork done properly, and allow investigators to get on with their research. Martin joined the OVP in March 2007. Martin is a recent graduate of Saint Lawrence University in New York, where he majored in history and worked in a research lab as well as various academic offices.

Jeanne Eisenhaure is the primary contact for questions about the SBER IRB. She can answer general questions about the IRB process and your research protocol and can help you find and complete the necessary forms. She will forward to Yvonne specific questions about your research protocol, such as which type of review your protocol requires (exempt, expedited, or full review). Please contact Jeanne through the SBER IRB email address [SBER@Tufts.edu](mailto:SBER@Tufts.edu), which is read daily Monday through Friday, or through the Medford/Somerville OVP main phone number (617) 627-3417. She, Yvonne, or Martin will respond promptly to your query.

"Jeanne and Martin are very dynamic and go out of their way to make sure people are helped in getting their protocol through the IRB process," says Yvonne. "I am very excited to have them as members of the SBER IRB team."

For more information, please go to the [SBER IRB](#) website.

Article written by Barbara Eisenhaure.