



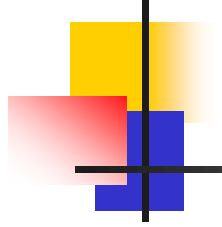
# Ontario Colleges Multi-college ethics review process

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Pulling together:  
Making research and research ethics  
better in the Ontario college system

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# The Multi-college Ethics Working Group







# Our goal: a multi-college ethics review process

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Only for minimal risk, multi-college studies

Only for REBs that want to participate



# Support for a multi-college ethics review process

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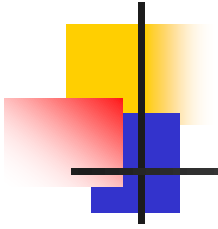
The working group developed a process with input and support from the Secretariat

Full support confirmed from HAR (Nov 2015)

Process was pilot tested and evaluated

Plan to launch: September 2016, after meeting with all REB Chairs

# The Multi-college ethics process:





# The Expert Panel: Who are they?

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Five to seven REB Chairs who volunteer to sit on the Expert panel and review multi-college applications for two years; one acts as Lead

Members must have a minimum of two years' REB review experience

The Lead's role: receive the ethics application referrals from the referral college, screen them, then send out a call for reviewers from the panel (each review requires three reviewers)



# The expert panel process

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The panel members review within 10 working days using the multi-college .2252 1.8 re2saoc6f









# Pilot test done

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The process was tested with several colleges

Evaluated from all perspectives: researchers, the REB Chairs /Coordinators, the Expert Panel members and Directors/VPs Applied Research. We asked:

What were the challenges? Benefits/advantages?

How long did the reviews take?

What local college and cross system supports are needed to sustain the process?

Data collection involved interviews, surveys and process metrics



# Results

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Five applications sent to the expert panel (EP) during the six month project

Average review time by the EP was 9 days.

The EP largely agreed on issues related to ethics and panel members reported that the referral, review and recommendation process functioned well.

Researchers: a positive experience with the EP

Mixed results and researcher dissatisfaction with the college REB process



## Results from the college REB reviews

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21 reviews: large variation in review time:  
Seven (33.3%) were reviewed in 0 to 2 days.  
Seven (33.3%) reviewed in 3 to 8 days however,



## Agreement with HAR to go forward (Nov 2015)

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### HAR ethics working group will:

Share education materials, and procedure documents with the REBs, explaining the multi-college process, hold webinars/info sessions

Assemble and prepare the expert panel and roll out the process to any interested college in Sept 2016

### HAR members will:

Communicate their support for the procedure change and ongoing professional development for REB members at their college

Provide support (one hour/week) for an REB coordinator to handle filing, communication with the researcher. Responsibility for that support will rotate colleges every two years



Let's talk!

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What questions do you have?

What are your thoughts/concerns?

What other information/support do you need to adopt this procedure?

Suggestions?



# Contact us:

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