REACHing Inclusion: Pioneering Pathways in HRPPs webinar

March 7, 2024
Webinar Speaker Biographies

Barbara E. Bierer, MD, is the Faculty Director of the Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard (MRCT Center), a Professor of Medicine (Pediatrics), Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and a hematologist/oncologist. She is the Director of the Regulatory Foundations, Ethics, and the Law Program of the Harvard Clinical and Translational Sciences Center, and Director of Regulatory Policy, SMART IRB. Previously she served as senior vice president, research at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital for 11 years, and was the institutional official for human subjects and animal research, for biosafety, and for research integrity. She initiated the Brigham Research Institute and the Innovation Hub (iHub), a focus for entrepreneurship and innovation. In addition, she was the Founding Director of the Center for Faculty Development and Diversity at the BWH. In addition to her academic responsibilities, Dr. Bierer serves on the Board of Directors of Vivli, Inc., a non-profit organization founded by the MRCT Center dedicated to global clinical trial sharing; North Star Research Board; Clinithink, Inc.; Generation Patient; and the Edward P Evans Foundation. Previously she has served on the Board of Directors of Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) and the Association for Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) and as chair of the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections, HHS, among others. She has authored or co-authored over 270 publications and is on the editorial boards of a number of journals including Ethics and Human Research. Dr. Bierer received a B.S. from Yale University and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School.

Michelle Feige, MSW, LCSW-C, is the Executive Vice President of the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP) As a member of AAHRPP’s senior management team, Michelle Feige assists the President and CEO of AAHRPP by providing strategic and substantive contributions to all aspects of AAHRPP’s operations. Prior to joining AAHRPP, she spent eight years in the Division of Education and Development at the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) serving as a Senior Public Health Advisor and as Acting Director of the Division. At OHRP, Ms. Feige provided the research community with guidance and education regarding the Department of Health and Human Services' regulations for the protection of human subjects through presentations and quality improvement activities. Ms. Feige also worked for eight years in the Office of the Clinical Director at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). She was a founding member of a group of senior clinicians who started a novel program at NIMH designed to protect research subjects with severe psychiatric illnesses. She also served on the Ethics Consultation Services at NIH. Before joining NIH, Ms. Feige spent several years as a study coordinator conducting psychiatric clinical trials at Georgetown University Hospital. Ms. Feige received her MSW from the University of Michigan and her BA from the University of Wisconsin.
Martha F. Jones, MA, CIP, the Vice President, Human Research Affairs at Mass General Brigham Incorporated, an integrated healthcare system in Boston, Massachusetts. Ms. Jones is a member of the NIH National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) Analysis, Visualization, and Informatics Lab-space (AnVIL) Data Access Working Group. She also serves as a member of the Council on Accreditation of the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAAHARP) and is an active Site Visitor and Team Leader. She previously served as Chair of the Council and has received the AAHRPP Distinguished Team Leader Award. Ms. Jones co-leads the National Comprehensive Cancer Centers (NCCN) IRB Directors group and is a member of the national SMART IRB Harmonization Steering Committee. Ms. Jones has a strong interest in bringing research into the community setting and serves as a member of the Massachusetts General Hospital Chelsea Community Research Advisory Board. She is also interested in technology solutions to support the efficient review and management of research and co-developed a research application and data management system now used at two large academic research institutions. Ms. Jones previously served as a member of the Board of Directors for Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) where she was a member of the Executive Committee. Ms. Jones previously worked at Washington University in St. Louis and The University of Iowa in research and administration roles. She has a background and experience in clinical research ethics, epidemiology, biostatistics, speech pathology, audiology, public health, and the coordination of multicenter research studies.

Ivy Tillman, EdD is the Executive Director of PRIM&R, advancing PRIM&R's mission of promoting the highest ethical standards in the conduct of research through critical research policy expertise, professional development, and education to its community of professionals. Dr. Tillman brings over 18 years of leadership in research ethics and oversight, focusing on promoting the trustworthiness of research organizations. As a purposeful leader, Dr. Tillman has developed partnerships with varied stakeholders, bringing varied perspectives and voices together to create programs and initiatives that move research ethics conversations forward.

Prior to joining PRIM&R, Dr. Tillman was the Director of Research Operations at the Mayo Clinic, supporting the IRB, IACUC, and IBC. She also served as IRB Director for Augusta University in Augusta, Georgia, where she provided oversight for the Human Research Protection Program, IRB Operations, and IRB and researcher compliance programs. Dr. Tillman received her Doctorate in Education from Augusta University, her Master of Science in Health Care Management from Troy University, and her Bachelor of Arts in Biology and French from Clemson University. Dr. Tillman was a site visitor for the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP), a Certified IRB Professional, and a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator. Dr. Tillman has a long history of service to a broad range of organizations advocating for research ethics, including PRIM&R.