

REC Activity Report 2007-08

(Note: covers REC activity from October 2007 to December 2008)

Committee Membership

In the period of activity from October 2007 to December 2008, there have been no retirements, and 3 new appointments:

Current Members:

- Mr. Brian Trench (Chair)
- Dr. Donal O'Mathuna (Vice-Chair)
- Dr. Declan Raftery (Secretary)
- Ms. Fiona Brennan (Rapporteur)
- Dr. Donal O'Gorman
- Dr. Mary Shine-Thompson
- Dr. Peter Nowlan
- Ms. Cathy Fowley
- Ms. Chanel Watson
- Mr. Deiric O'Broin
- Dr. Gabriel Flynn
- Dr. Finbarr O'Sullivan
- Dr. Michael Parkinson
- Dr. Noelle Higgins (appointed November 2007)
- Mr. Vincent Lynch (appointed March 2008)
- Dr. Bert Gordijn (appointed November 2008)

Dr. Bert Gordijn was appointed to the new Chair of Ethics in the DCU Institute of Ethics, and therefore he or his nominee should be classified as an ex-officio member of the REC.

Meetings

The full committee met seven times during the period in question. In addition, a subcommittee comprised of the REC Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Rapporteur met between full meetings to discuss procedural issues.

Ethical Reviews

The REC processed 135 applications for ethical review. Full committee review was required for 10 of those applications, 41 were processed by expedited review, and 84 were processed via the notification procedure.

Procedures

In order to assist researchers in completing their submission to the expected standard, the REC application forms were clarified and updated

Ethical Awareness

An REC workshop on Risk Assessment took place on Wednesday 4th June 2008 –the guest speaker was Dr. Kevin Kelleher, (Assistant National Director, Population Health - Health Protection, Health Service Executive, and chair of the UL Research Ethics Committee).

It was agreed that this workshop was well attended and that academic staff found the discussions beneficial. It was useful to see the common problems encountered by REC's and the systems that have been put in place.

Future Work

- Working with Research Liaisons in Schools and Centres to raise ethics awareness in DCU, providing them with the appropriate support materials and training.
- Ongoing development of the REC website