REBC Fall Update 2019: Research Ethics Harmonization

Research Ethics BC
Formerly known as the BC Ethics Harmonization Initiative (BCEHI), Research Ethics BC is a collaboration amongst BC’s regional health authorities and major academic institutions. With a commitment to harmonize ethical review of multi-jurisdictional research across BC, REBC’s key objectives include collaborative governance over the ethics review process, trust and respect, institutional autonomy, and sustainability.

REBC News
- REBC celebrated the one-year launch of PREP on Sept. 1, 2019. Since its launch, PREP has hosted the harmonized review of 735 studies, representing research collaborations across the province.
- Four new partners have joined REBC including BCIT, TRU, FNHA, and Langara. REBC is in the process of onboarding other interested institutions.
- REBC now has two full time roles supporting the network, as well as a part time administrative assistant. Terri Fleming has joined BC AHSN as the full time Director of REBC, and Paola Pinto Vidal’s REBC Navigator role was increased to full time in July.

Key Accomplishments
- REBC established an Advisory Council and held its first Council meeting in June. The Council will consider feedback from REBC staff and stakeholders and guide REBC’s strategic direction.
- In addition, we held our inaugural Stakeholder’s Event in June in Kelowna. This event is designed to obtain the feedback from the network of institutions involved in research ethics in BC. This year the attendees expressed an interest in increasing our understanding of Indigenous and community-based research ethics, innovative consent, data management, and the harmonization of clinical trials, just to name a few.

What’s Next
- On October 16, 2019 UBC and REBC will co-host the Clinical Research Ethics Symposium
- We are in the process of developing an MOU to replace the expired Reciprocity Agreement. This is a fundamental piece of work that will define the collaboration between REBC/BC AHSN with the network of institutions using PREP which is hosted by UBC.

Contact:
Paola Pinto Vidal, Research Ethics BC Navigator, pvidal@bcahsn.ca
Research Ethics BC has grown substantially from its initial partners of UBC, SFU, UVic, UNBC, Island Health, Fraser Health, Interior Health, and Northern Health.

Over the past year, 4 new partners have joined.

735 total number of harmonized studies that used PREP for review*

*Active and harmonized studies that were completed in the last year

Potential Partners:
- NORTHERN COLLEGE
- KPU
- VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY
- COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES
- CAMOSUN
- Selkirk College

New Partners
- SFU
- Fraser Health
- Fraser Cancer Centre
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- UNBC University
- Thompson Rivers University
- BC Cancer
- BC Women’s Hospital
- Providence Health Care

Original Partners
- REBC
- CREB
- BREB