a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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NOTICE TO THE UBC RESEARCH COMMUNITY

Implementation of a fee for annual renewals for ethical review of privately sponsored research studies

Effective April 1st, **2012**, all applications for annual renewal of ethics approval for **current** (active and approved prior to April 1, 2011) privately sponsored (industry funded) research studies will be subject to a charge of $250, when they are submitted for annual renewal. All new studies submitted for initial ethics approval subsequent to April 1st, 2011 will be subject to an annual renewal fee of $500, when they are submitted for annual renewal. Accordingly, any privately sponsored study currently under the oversight of any of UBC's affiliated Research Ethics Boards (REBs) that is closed (by way of submission of an application for study closure) prior to **April 1, 2012** will not be subject to the annual renewal fee.

This fee reflects the additional REB time and resources required for conducting annual renewals of studies, and for continuous monitoring and oversight of active studies through-out the year. Increasing regulatory and compliance obligations are requiring UBCs Research Ethics Boards to ensure that annual renewals and continuous monitoring are both substantive and meaningful. All revenues generated as a result of this charge will be retained in their entirety by the institution that is responsible for financially resourcing the board providing the review and oversight.

Annual renewals will not be released until the fee has been received by the research ethics board.

UBCs affiliated Research Ethics Boards are committed to ensuring that research ethics reviews and approvals are both effective, and efficient. Levying this charge will allow the Boards to continue their efforts in this respect, including implementing harmonization initiatives to avoid the need for duplication of ethical reviews. UBCs Research Ethics Boards have recently agreed to extend recognition of **ethical** (not resource) reviews of the same study to all of UBC's affiliated research ethics boards, irrespective of differing sites and Principle Investigators. They are committed to developing a process to facilitate this extension of the Board of Record agreement, and to pursuing any additional avenues for enhancing the timeliness of reviews, provided that research participant protection is not negatively affected.

If you have any questions or concerns respecting this Notice, or any suggestions for improving the timeliness of ethical reviews at UBC, please contact the Associate Director Research Ethics at laurel.evans@ors.ubc.ca, or by phone at (604) 827-5113.