What is eResearch Central?

eResearch Central is a new University Web initiative — a central electronic location to access research-related forms and several new online tools to help you manage research-related tasks. These tools include an automated “to-do” list and a system to track submitted forms.

What will I find on eResearch Central?

In the initial release of eResearch Central, you will be able to complete, track, and receive automated reminders about IRB and IACUC continuing reviews and IACUC 3-year renewals.

Will I eventually see all of my research-related tasks and forms on eResearch Central?

Yes. eResearch Central’s functionality will grow over time, phasing in the ability to complete and track other research-related University forms and to allow sharing of data among University research-related databases. Such integration will streamline processes for you and for those who manage research compliance.

How will eResearch Central improve my research administration needs?

eResearch Central has been developed to decrease the amount of paperwork necessary to do research and improve research-related communications at the University. With your first visit to eResearch Central, you will see the advantages of using one Web site to meet all of your research compliance needs, such as automated reminders of required tasks.

How does eResearch Central relate to EGMS (the Electronic Grants Management System)?

EGMS is just one part of the grants management and research compliance systems. eResearch Central will eventually tie together all of the electronic systems used for grants management and compliance, such as EGMS, to simplify access to and integrate these systems.

Is information on eResearch Central secure?

Yes. Data is stored in a secure database and can only be accessed by authentication with your University Internet ID (X.500 username) and password.

What are the browser requirements to use eResearch Central?

For PC users: Netscape 6.2 or higher or Internet 5.5 or higher
For Mac OSX users: Safari 1.x, Netscape 7.x, Mozilla 1.2.x, or Internet Explorer 5.1 or higher

Can I access information on eResearch Central away from my office?

Yes. Because eResearch Central is a Web-based system, you can access it anywhere you have an Internet connection.

Who can I contact for support?

You can e-mail help@eresearch.umn.edu or call the eResearch help line at 612-624-1600.
If my continuing review or 3-year renewal form is due around the time of the system launch, do I use a paper form or the online system?

Refer to your e-mail notification to determine what process to use. If you receive a “time-to-file” e-mail before the online forms are available, it will ask you to file a paper version of the form. If your e-mail reminder directs you to eResearch Central, you will need to use the online system.

Will paper versions of the continuing review or 3-year renewal still be available once the online system is launched?

No. Once the online system becomes available, you will need to complete continuing reviews and 3-year renewals online. Refer to your “time-to-file” e-mail to determine which process to use during the transition.

Have the rules changed?

No. The federal requirements for substantive continuing review have not changed.

Is any new information being requested on the online continuing reviews?

Yes. The information being requested is mostly unchanged, but some new questions have been added. Some of these questions address new regulatory requirements; others collect new data, which will then be available to you in an editable format for subsequent submissions.

Will the frequency for filing continuing review reports increase with the online system?

No. The IRB or IACUC determines the frequency of continuing review reports based on the risks of the study. The requirement for “no less than annual” review has not changed.

Can I submit all IRB/IACUC forms and correspondence online now?

Not yet. The first phase of the process improvements for IRB and IACUC encompasses only the online submission of continuing reviews and 3-year renewals. Future development will focus on creating more electronic tools and adding the ability to submit other forms online.

Can other people view my forms online?

Currently, you can only view online IRB/IACUC forms for which you are the principal investigator, co-investigator, or correspondent. Future development of the system will provide a “proxy” feature allowing you to grant view permission to other University personnel, such as your departmental administrator.

Will the online forms take more time to complete?

Initially, the online system will seem new and different, and it may take you a few more minutes longer to complete the forms online than on paper. However, once you become familiar with the process, you should find online form completion to be faster.

Does the online system provide features to ease form completion?

Yes. The first time you complete an IRB or IACUC continuing review, the online system auto-inserts some information from central databases for you, saving time. For subsequent submissions, additional information will be available in an editable format, reducing keystrokes and the potential for errors.