January 24, 2012:
UCLA Site Visit for Reaccreditation of Human Research Protection Program
Scheduled February 28th through March 2nd

The UCLA Human Research Protection Program is being evaluated for reaccreditation by representatives from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). Reaccreditation is very important for UCLA as we wish to maintain our status as an organization that meets the highest national standards and best practices. Other like institutions that are accredited include Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Stanford, Vanderbilt, Emory, University Michigan, of Washington, of Pennsylvania, Cedars Sinai, USC and UCSF, UC Irvine, and UC Riverside.

What is the purpose of the interviews?
The purpose of the interviews is to determine if the practice of how we at UCLA protect the safety and welfare of our human research participants is understood by our research community and corresponds to our written guidance. Over 100 people are scheduled to be interviewed.

Who will be interviewed?
AAHRPP has asked to interview
- Researchers and research staff,
- IRB members and OHRPP staff,
- High level University officials, and
- Other Unit heads or distinguished faculty.

Researchers will be interviewed in groups of people who have similar roles or interests in human research. Researchers and research staff are typically selected to be interviewed because they have research that represents a certain type of research, such as research with vulnerable populations, or research using drugs or devices, or expedited or exempt research. Others will be representing a particular unit or area, such as Pharmacy or the Conflict of Interest Review Committee.

If you have been selected by AAHRPP to be interviewed,
- You will have already been notified or will be notified within the next couple of days by our office.
- Please say yes! We know you all have a very busy schedules, but it is very important that all those asked to be interviewed agree to attend the interview, unless out of the country or on vacation. You won't be asked again for five years—presuming the site visit is successful.
- Thank you so much to the many of you who have already made time in your busy schedule and agreed to be interviewed.

Why is reaccreditation important to UCLA?
Beyond what is discussed in the first paragraph, reaccreditation is important for many of our collaborators. UCLA has a very broad range of research and a large research portfolio. Our researchers are working closely with our other sister UC campuses and our UCLA CTSI collaborators, as well as many in the community, across the nation and internationally, AAHRPP accreditation makes these collaborations much easier and expands UCLA’s ability to rely on other IRBs.