The University of Minnesota Human Research Protection Program is proud to introduce ETHOS (Ethical Oversight Submission System), a web-based platform for IRB submissions. It is part of a larger initiative to adopt new and enhanced approaches to the review of human research.

The system’s acronym stems from the University’s mission to cultivate a culture of research ethics—to protect research participants, uphold the highest ethical standards, and improve our practice at every step.

When ETHOS launches on March 27, 2017, it will serve as the central system for submission, review, and management of human research studies at the University. See the image below for examples of what you will be able to do in ETHOS.
ETHOS will enable you to do the following:

1. **Complete the online IRB application and submit it for review.** Fill out a short study form, attach your protocol, consent form(s), and other supporting documents, then submit. You will no longer be required to complete a lengthy application and appendices or compile and send all of your study documents to the IRB via email.

2. **Track the progress of your study as it is routed through the review process.** Watch your study move through the review workflow so you can know the status of your submission in real-time. Inspect the study’s review history so you can know how long it is taking the IRB to review your study. With this enhanced visibility, you will no longer be left to wonder where your study is in the review process.

3. **Correspond with IRB staff about your study and respond to IRB requests.** Update IRB staff with important information or ask a question within ETHOS by adding a comment. Respond to requests from the IRB directly in the system. Comments and revisions are tracked automatically in the system so you will no longer be required to submit a separate point-by-point response memo.
4. **Access IRB approved documents and use ETHOS to manage them.** Once your study is approved, all of your approved documents, like consent forms, are stored within the system for you to access and print them at any time. By maintaining your approved documents within ETHOS, you will no longer need to maintain separate versions on your department’s shared drive. Because the IRB also has access to your approved documents, you will no longer be required to resubmit approved consent forms at Continuing Review.

ETHOS represents a major shift in the way you will interact with the IRB and the way the IRB will do business. The features listed above are just a sampling of the functionality available to you when ETHOS goes lives for new submissions on March 27, 2017.

In between now and then, the Human Research Protection Program will be offering multiple training sessions and rolling out user guides and other training materials so that you will be well prepared to use the system on Day One! Stay up to date with the latest news and developments on the ETHOS webpage.

**Questions?**

ETHOS questions or training requests for departments: ethosirb@umn.edu
General questions and IRB submissions during the transition to ETHOS: irb@umn.edu; (612) 626-5654