



March 12, 2007

Dear Investigator:

I am writing to tell you about a new evaluation we have sponsored at the NCI and to ask for your participation in a survey that will only take a few minutes. This evaluation will provide us with critical information on the costs associated with IRB review. We want to understand the time and effort you and your staff spend when preparing for IRB review of Cooperative Group clinical trials, both when your IRB does its own full Board review and when your local IRB uses the NCI's Central IRB. This evaluation is also looking at IRB costs and time to study approval, both when your IRB does its own full Board review and when your local IRB uses the CIRB.

Please note that your decision to participate in this evaluation will not affect any support you are currently receiving from your Cooperative Group or the NCI. The NCI has funded this evaluation, but the evaluation is being conducted by Todd H. Wagner, Ph.D., an independent researcher affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Stanford University. Your participation will not be known to NCI staff, only to Dr. Wagner and his team.

Again, we encourage you to participate. This type of study has not been done previously and promises to provide insightful information about time, effort and costs related to local IRB and Central IRB reviews. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Abrams".

Jeff Abrams, MD  
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