



TTUHSC Receives “Gold Seal” Accreditation for Human Research Protection

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center has received accreditation by The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP) an independent and worldwide oversight group. AAHRPP accreditation provides evidence that TTUHSC meets rigorous standards through policies, procedures, and practices—of the Institutional commitment to scientifically and ethically sound research and to continuous improvement. As the "gold seal," AAHRPP accreditation offers assurances—to research participants, researchers, sponsors, government regulators, and the general public of the quality of human subjects program at TTUHSC.

AAHRPP accreditation followed a year of internal evaluation and process improvements that was evaluated by an external “site visit” team sent by the accreditation organization. Over 40 administrators, Institutional Review Board members, researchers and research staff from the Lubbock and Amarillo campuses were interviewed during the site visit to ensure that written policies were known, and best practices were being followed.

The accreditation process was led by Beth Taraban, Director of the Research Integrity Office, with lots of help from:

- Kathy Thomas—IRB Administrator for Amarillo, Dallas and Abilene campuses
- Karen Douglas—IRB Administrator for Lubbock and Odessa campuses
- Pam Frazier—Director of Clinical Contracts, all campuses
- Cathy Lovett—Director of Clinical Research Institute

AAHRPP accredits high-quality human research protection programs in order to promote excellent, ethically sound research.

With this recognition, TTUHSC becomes one of only 12 of the Texas hospitals and educational institutions to have received accreditation.