



New England IRB Awarded Full AAHRPP Accreditation for the Third Time

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Wellesley, MA – March 24, 2010 -- New England Institutional Review Board (NEIRB), has been awarded Full AAHRPP Accreditation status by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc.,® (AAHRPP®). This is the third time that AAHRPP has awarded this gold standard to NEIRB, first in 2003, again in 2006. For the first time, Full Accreditation status extends to five years.

NEIRB is an independent review board that protects the rights and welfare of human research participants, having the authority to review, approve and monitor the progress of clinical trials. Re-accreditation was achieved after a rigorous yearlong process requiring that every detail of the organization, including its policies and procedures, staff expertise and resources be examined and described.

"Our re-accreditation with AAHRPP is evidence that we continue to adhere to the highest ethical standards in human subject protection, and we have extensive safeguards at every level of our organization," said James Saunders, Vice President of NEIRB. "We also believe that IRB oversight extends far beyond review and approval; it is also about education, monitoring and continuous quality improvement. With this re-accreditation, we signal federal agencies, sponsors and investigators that our program is committed to excellence in human subject protection. It is an onerous yet ultimately worthwhile goal which all research programs should seek."

AAHRPP was created to improve the overall quality of research by consistently applying high standards and practices. NEIRB has met and in many cases, met with distinction, the standards established by AAHRPP that benchmark an organization's commitment to quality research and human subject protection.