

# Regulatory and Ethical Issues in Repository Research

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# Agenda

- ▶ Review of Regulatory and Ethical Issues
  - Creating a Repository
  - Storing Data and Managing
  - Using the Repository
- ▶ Discussion and Debate

# Paradigms Shifting

Traditional Research:  
(privacy/consent)

- ▶ Individual subject
- ▶ Established relationship
- ▶ Consent for explicit procedures
- ▶ Altruistic motivations

Biobank Research:  
(collective interests)

- ▶ Families-Communities
- ▶ Unknown future investigators
- ▶ Unknown future uses and pursuits
- ▶ Diverse motivations, long-term investments

# NIH GWAS Data Sharing Policy

- ▶ “The full value of GWAS to the public can be realized only if the genotype and phenotype datasets are made available as rapidly as possible to a wide range of scientific investigators”...



# An Avalanche of Guidelines

- UK Biobanks Governance Framework (2003)
  - ▶ Are there alternative consent models?
- NIH Data Sharing Policy (2003)
  - ▶ Can we de-identify datasets?
- OHRP Guidance on Databanks (2004, 2008)
  - ▶ Who should count as a human subject?
- NIH Proposed GWAS Data Sharing (2006)
  - ▶ How can we preserve public trust?
- Consensus Statement on Personal Genome (2008)
  - ▶ Should we return results? How can you withdraw?

# Creating a Repository

- ▶ Diversity of data and specimens
  - Purposes/Types of studies
  - Type, Associated information
  - Prospective/Retrospective
  - Level of identifiability
- ▶ Collection methods
- ▶ Consent procedures/Waivers
- ▶ HIPAA

# DNA: “No Longer De-Identified”

- ▶ Individual identification is possible with access to a limited number of DNA markers – far fewer than used in GWAS
- ▶ Identification requires matching sample: is individual “readily identifiable?”
- ▶ Individuals can be identified from pooled genotype data

# Consent: what can we do?

- ▶ Opt-out
  - ▶ Opt-in
  - ▶ Specific designations of use
  - ▶ Consent at admission (if hospital-based)
  - ▶ Consent post-op
  - ▶ Re-consent for specific use
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- ▶ How should we decide what to use?

# Storage and Management

- ▶ Storage: where and how long?
- ▶ Data release: what and to whom?
- ▶ Governance and oversight: who will perform gatekeeping functions?
- ▶ Responsibilities of data recipient: protection, stewardship, and returning results?

# IRB Assessment of Risk

- ▶ Physical
- ▶ Psychosocial
- ▶ Group harms
- ▶ Privacy/confidentiality

# Public Opinion

2008 randomized public survey of 4659 (58.4% response)

- ▶ 90% were concerned about privacy protections
- ▶ 60% would participate in a biobank if asked
- ▶ 48% would provide consent for all research if approved by an oversight board, 42% wanted to be asked for each
- ▶ 37% were worried the data could be used against them
- ▶ 92% would allow academic researchers to use data; 80% "govt researchers"; 75% industry
- ▶ Receiving research results, or \$200, made a difference in interest in participating and lessened concerns about privacy

▶ Kaufman et al. 2009

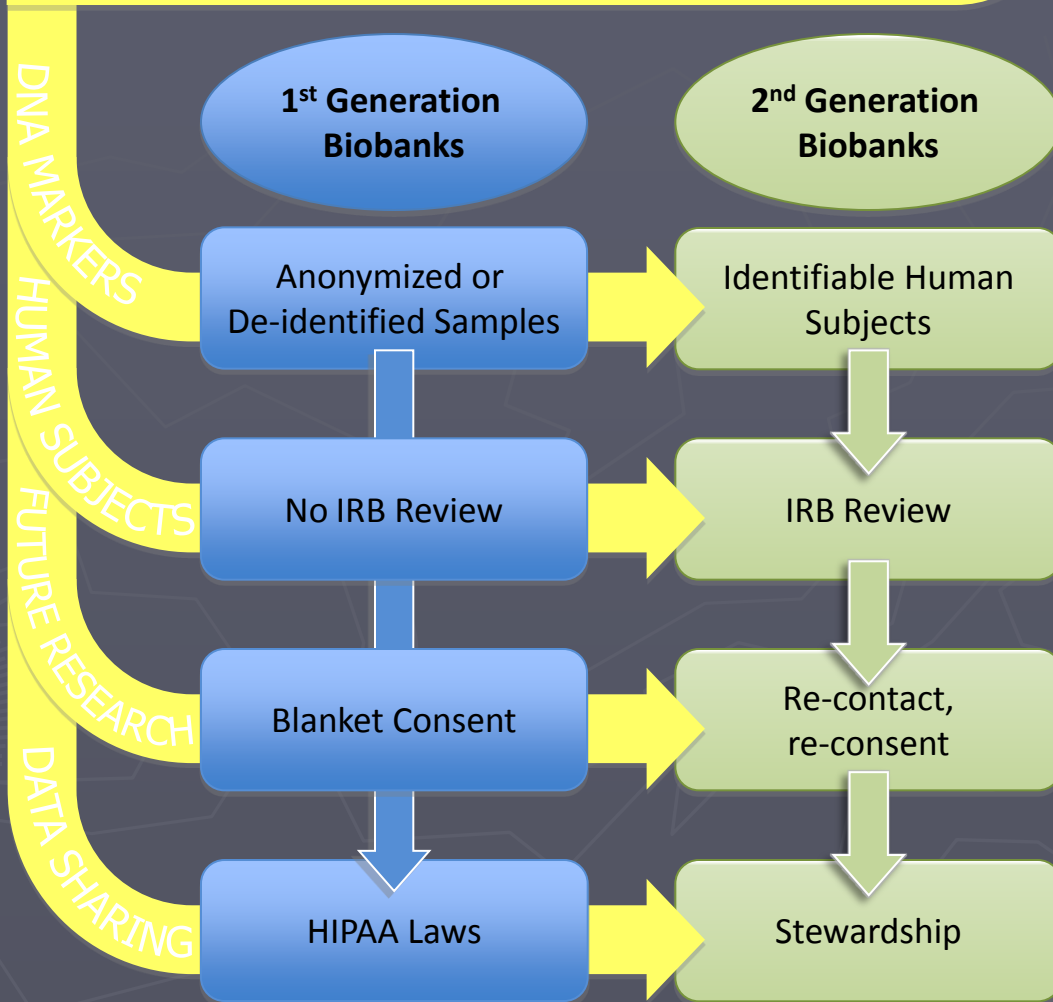
# Benefits of Public Participation

Public participation in research can:

- ▶ Improve recruitment
- ▶ Enhance data collection
- ▶ Focus analysis and interpretation
- ▶ Facilitate dissemination
- ▶ Creates trust

Staley K. (2009) Exploring Impact: Public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research. INVOLVE, Eastleigh.

# The New Research Ethics Reality



# Questions for Discussion

- ▶ When is it appropriate to return research results to subjects?
- ▶ How much control should subjects have over future uses of their data/specimens?
- ▶ Is it possible to prevent group harm? How can this be prevented?
- ▶ How to assess risk, especially with genetic research?
- ▶ What kind of stewardship or oversight is appropriate for repository research?



# OHRP Guidance (2008): Coded Private Information and Specimens

“Under certain limited conditions, research involving **only** coded private information or specimens is not human subjects research.”

45 CFR 46.102 Definitions:

- (f) *Human subject* means a living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains:
- (1) Data through intervention or interaction with the individual, or
  - (2) Identifiable private information.

# NIH GWAS Data Certification

- ▶ In order to minimize risks to study participants, data submitted to the NIH GWAS data repository will be de-identified and coded.
  - the identities of data subjects cannot be readily ascertained or otherwise associated with the data by the repository staff or secondary data users
  - the 18 identifiers enumerated by the HIPAA Privacy Rule are removed; and
  - the submitting institution has no actual knowledge that the remaining information could be used alone or in combination with other information to identify the subject of the data.