

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative

CITI Newsletter



WINTER 2009: VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

PUBLISHED BY CITI—UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



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Platform and Technical Updates

CITI Homepage Refreshed

You've no doubt noticed some changes in the CITI home page. In response to user requests, CITI has made a number of modifications to the course site including:

1. The learner's menus were updated.
2. Modifications were made to the registration process to require fewer "clicks."
3. Major changes were made in the Home Page to make the selection of the appropriate language for viewing the content simpler and straight forward.
4. Finally, major modifications to the enrollment process have been implemented to make it easier for learners to choose the appropriate curriculum.

There are now 2 approaches that CITI can use to ensure that learners enroll in the appropriate "Learner Group."

1. The current approach presents all the curriculum on one page and the learner chooses the appropriate courses to complete. This works well when the institution has uncomplicated training requirements and only a few learner groups.
2. The new enrollment procedure employs a page to page approach where the software presents the learner with a series of questions. The responses to questions determine the curriculum that will be presented to the learner. This approach works well when the institution has many learner groups and complex training requirements.

If you think that your learners might benefit from the new enrollment procedure contact the CITI Help Desk (305 243-7970) for more details.

New Username and Password Retrieval System

Due to increasing concerns about password security, CITI has developed a new system for users to retrieve a forgotten username and password. The new system involves a correct response to a security question, such as "what is your mother's maiden name". The software will ask learners to provide their own security question and an answer to that question when the learner registers. The answer to the security question will provide immediate access to the CITI course and require the learner develop a new password before proceeding. This process will eliminate the need for most of the forgetful users to call or email CITI helpdesk technicians. It also obviates sending usernames and passwords by email. This new feature will be added to the enrollment process in January 2009.

Portal Systems and Learner Authentication

It is now possible to place a link to the CITI program behind your institutional Portal. Many institutions have username and password protected "Web Portals" that provide employees with access to the institution's intranet and important institutional resources. These systems provide additional security and firewall protection. CITI can now place institutional access to the CITI Program inside the institutional portal. The major advantage to the learner is that their username and password to enter the institutional portal will automatically provide them with access to the CITI Program without the need for an additional CITI username and password. The advantage to the institution is that this system provides security and user verification. The training data stored by CITI can be easily passed back to the institution as needed.

To implement this system, your IT group must confer with the CITI Programmers at (305 243-7970) to implement a seamless integration. Some programming may be required and a onetime fee will likely be charged to implement the system.

CITI: the International Initiatives

CITI is extremely fortunate to have an active International Working Group within its structure. Members of the International Working Group willingly volunteer their expertise in evaluating and advising authors and translators on cultural information that might impact the interpretation and comprehension of translated CITI content.

At the Developer's Meeting this past spring, presenters from around the world provided information and data about their areas and how CITI might support their needs in their regions.

Dr. Iekuni Ichikawa reported that academic researchers in **Japan** have been working to adapt CITI modules for their use. It was more than just translating the documents for them. Care was taken to look at the legal, cultural and psychological context of the information in comparison to Japanese culture. The information was then translated to Japanese - with appropriate adaptations and then re-reviewed in English by the CITI team. It is anticipated that CITI-Japan will be ready for testing in January 2009.

Nigeria continues to leverage CITI for training of its researcher community. Dr. Ifeoma Okoye continues to present CITI to her colleagues around the country. A CITI coordinator has been appointed and this person is working on an institution by institution basis to assure that CITI is discussed as a choice of the resources to be used in ethics training.

Benjamin Kuo of **Taiwan** brought the CITI developer's group up to date on activities in his home country. Dr. Kuo works with the Joint Institutional Review Board – a central IRB that offers IRB review for institutions in Taiwan. Dr. Kuo shared data on the need for a resource like CITI and made a plug for the CITI modules to be translated to Traditional Chinese thus allowing this resource to be available to an even larger audience. The CITI Course site can now offer training materials in the Chinese language and Chinese characters.



The **Latin American and Caribbean** activities of the CITI Program are coordinated by Drs. Sergio Litewka and Anthony Mullings respectively.

Roxana Lescano, Director of the Research Administration Program at NMRC Peru and Coordinator of the Peruvian IRB Network, presented information on CITI's growing use in *Peru*. "6 Peruvian institutions now have educational policies including CITI as their ethics and training course." They continue to work on quiz questions existing in English only. Work is being done to address these translation issues and make CITI completely user friendly to our colleagues in Peru.

Dr. Jose Geraldo de Freitas Drummond, Director of the Foundation for Support to Research in Minas Gerais, (FAPEMIG) **Brazil** has added new translations into Portuguese for modules originally prepared by the Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics at the University of Chile. Those modules are being posted in the Portuguese section of the CITI Program. During the developers meeting, Dr. Drummond gave an overview on research integrity and current challenges in Brazil.

Carla De Souza, from the University of Caxias do Sul, **Brazil** is also working in Portuguese translations for original English modules of CITI. Mrs. Souza has been very active in the expansion of the Program in the Southern Region of Brazil.

Dr. Delia Outomuro, director of the post-graduate course for bioethics at the University of Buenos Aires, **Argentina**, provided an overview about research misconduct in Argentina. Dr. Fernando Lolas, Director of the Regional Unit of Bioethics, Pan American Health Organization gave also an update about the current situation in **Chile** concerning research integrity activities. Dr. Lolas made an illustrative presentation about international dispositions and regulations for performing research with animals.

Dr. Anthony Mullings, Caribbean Coordinator for CITI gave an overview of the advances of the CITI Program in the **Caribbean region**.

It has to be mentioned that a new institution from Latin America, the Mexican Institute for Genomics, has been enrolled in the CITI Program. This is the beginning for the expansion of the CITI Program in *Mexico*.

EAC Action

CITI Executive Committee Responds to OHRP's request for comments on mandatory education and training

In response to the OHRP, RFI and Comment entitled "The Implementation of Human Subjects Training and Education Programs", the CITI Executive Committee sent a letter with their thoughts and comments regarding the need for regulation or new guidance on this subject.

The contents of this letter can be found at: <https://www.citiprogram.org/dev/announcements.asp>

2008 PRIM&R Conference

For the third straight year CITI has been an active participant in the PRIM&R Human Subjects Protections Conference. For the second straight year CITI was a Platinum Sponsor of the event. We are proud to have been able to make a significant contribution to the PRIM&R Scholarship Fund to bring international scholars to the meeting and to be an exhibitor at the meeting. Hundreds of people came by the booth to visit with Ady, Marcos and Treshonda, from the CITI office. In addition to the CITI souvenirs distributed to everyone who stopped by, Becca Hirshman a Program Monitor at WestEd, won a portable GPS device in the drawing held at the end of the PRIM&R conference.

Dr. Paul Braunschweiger delivered a lunchtime workshop entitled "What's New at the CITI Program". This session was well attended, but, in case you missed it the PowerPoint slide show is available by going to the FAQ and Announcements area of the CITI course site (www.citiprogram.org). The presentation highlighted the new course enrollment model, new content, new administrator utilities and new initiatives for 2009.

Congratulations to CITI Co-Founder Paul Braunschweiger, Ph.D., CITI Executive Advisory Committee Member, Kenneth Goodman Ph.D., and CITI Latin America Coordinator Sergio Litewka, MD on recently receiving a 4 year R25 Grant from Fogarty International / NIH to develop the ***Pan American Bioethics Initiative (PABI)***.

The focus of PABI is to partner with decision makers and policy architects from academia, government and industry in Latin America and in the Caribbean, who share the incentive to develop and implement rigorous research ethics programs and infrastructure.

CITI will play a major role as a provider and distributor of language and culturally appropriate educational materials. In addition, many members of the CITI Developer Group have agreed to serve as mentors, faculty and advisors to the PABI Fogarty Fellows

Content Updates

The CITI Program has added new content to the CITI library of modules:

CITI RCR Courses have been reviewed and edited. New quiz questions have been provided.

RCR and the Research Administrator is now available. This content was derived from the excellent materials developed by Drs. Erickson and Muskavitch at Boston College.

RCR for Engineers is a new RCR curriculum specifically designed for engineering students and faculty is being developed by Drs. Jason Borenstein at Georgia Tech and Paul Braunschweiger at the University of Miami. This new course will be ready in February 2009.

In addition, CITI has recently provided a contract for the development of an RCR Course entitled "*The RCR in The Arts and Humanities*". This new course, specifically targeting students and faculty conducting research in one of the disciplines in the humanities, is scheduled to be ready by September 1, 2009.

New Human Subjects Refresher courses, one for social and behavioral researchers and one for biomedical researchers will be available in January 2009.

Non-English Language Content:

CITI now has over 50 modules in Spanish and more than 30 modules translated to Portuguese. The CITI Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Course is available in both languages and soon the GCP content will be available in French and Thai. We are indebted to the HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC) and NIAID for the funding of these translations.

In addition to the current library of Spanish and Portuguese content, CITI will be providing additional content, in 2009, translated to Japanese (Basic HSR content), Chinese (Basic HSR content and GCP), Russian (Basic HSR Content and GCP) and Mongolian (Basic HSR content) languages.

Content Additions on the Horizon

Biosafety and Biosecurity The CITI Program has received many requests during the past year for new content on Biosafety and Biosecurity for investigators and Biosafety committee members. CITI has contracted a nationally known expert in the field to provide a new library of 15-16 modules on the important issues salient to this topic. We expect to have this new material delivered for peer review by July 2009 and available to CITI subscribers in Fall 2009.

Additional new content under review includes:

- ESCRO: Special Issues – Human Stem Cells
- IRB Administrator Module
- IRB Community Member Module

CITI Program Growth and Development

CITI course site enrollment continues to rise as new institutional participants discover that being a CITI participating institution means more than just human subjects education and training. As of 12-1-2008, 955 institutions and organizations have access to the resources available at the CITI Program. This represents a growth of approximately 200 new

members since this time last year. On average, about 25,000 people complete a CITI course every month. In some months (September and January) usage swells to more than 35,000 users. Depending on the month, 40 to 60% of the learners self identify as an undergraduate student, graduate student or postdoctoral fellow. As the total number of people completing a CITI course the Program opened in September 2000 is now approximately 960,000 people, we are looking forward to recognizing the one millionth learner to complete a CITI curriculum.

The Courses: This growth has not just been from usage of the human subjects courses, but also a 3 fold increase in enrollment in the RCR courses offered by the CITI Program as more institutions are requiring the students and faculty to have a clear understanding of research integrity and the Responsible Conduct of Research "across the curriculum". In addition a substantial increase has also been seen for the Lab Animal Welfare and Health Information Privacy and Security Courses.



The CITI Team: (L-R) Richard Sprince, Regina Smith, Kimberly Foley, Ady Santos, Treshonda Stevenson, Dee Joseph, and Marcos Souza

New Hardware: To insure continued service and fast page response times, the CITI program will be updating to faster and more powerful hardware in February 2009. The changeover will be gradual, deliberate and accomplished at low volume times, so little or no service interruption is anticipated.

New Personnel: In addition to updated hardware we have added 1.5 positions to the CITI helpdesk with an additional 2 positions to be filled in early 2009. These new content managers and technicians will guarantee that you continue to receive the timely service that you have come to expect from the CITI Program.

If your institution would like to take advantage of these CITI Program offerings at no additional cost, please contact Marcos or Dee at 305 243-7970.

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