From the President and CEO

*Tackling research protection issues— together*

To most in the research community, AAHRPP is synonymous with accreditation—and rightfully so. We are the world’s leading accrediting body, the “gold seal,” for human research protection programs. Yet, to think of AAHRPP only in terms of accreditation is to miss the mark.

Like you, we have a much broader goal: to advance high-quality, ethically sound research that ultimately leads to new knowledge and public benefit. AAHRPP pursues that goal, in part, by serving as a resource for accredited and non-accredited organizations alike. We encourage the human research protection community to work with us to address questions not just on accreditation standards but also on global trends for research involving human participants. With extensive contacts in academia, government, and industry—and more than 200 AAHRPP-accredited organizations worldwide—we are in an excellent position to connect you with the appropriate experts and to move the discussion forward.

In this issue of *Advance*, for example, we provide an update on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) proposal to require single institutional review board (IRB) review for NIH-sponsored multi-site research. We also share insights, from NIH’s Christine Grady, M.S.N., Ph.D., on some of the complexities of informed consent and international research. And, we remind you of our upcoming annual conference, a must-attend event for those concerned with human research protections.

This year’s conference, “Looking Back and Looking Forward: Compliance, Collaboration, and Community,” will be held May 19-21 in Chicago. As you can see from the conference [program](#), this year’s sessions tackle some of today’s most pressing research protection issues, including different perspectives on single-IRB review, IRB considerations in social media, comparative effectiveness research, and biobanking and large data sets. As in the past, we are offering a full-day pre-conference workshop for those interested in pursuing AAHRPP accreditation.

For the first time, the conference includes a session, presented in Mandarin, on lessons learned from AAHRPP accreditations in China and Taiwan. Also new this year are awards to acknowledge exceptional “AAHRPP ambassadors.” We will be presenting a lifetime achievement award as well as awards for best AAHRPP site visitor and best AAHRPP site visit team leader.

Whether this will be your first AAHRPP conference or your eleventh, you will benefit from opportunities to network, obtain the latest information on research involving human participants, and, perhaps most important of all, join your colleagues in promoting excellent, ethical research.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

Elyse I. Summers
AAHRPP President and CEO