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Contact: Lauren Rieger  
laurenw@uic.edu

## **Popular human research protection training program, CIRTification, now available online for institutional use**

CHICAGO-- The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) has released a free online version of its popular human research protection training program for community partners, CIRTification.

CIRTification Online covers the key topics included in standard human subjects training programs while taking into consideration new community partners' limited experience with research.

Developed with community partners, human research protection program administrators, academic researchers, research ethicists, and education specialists, CIRTification focuses on the unique roles and responsibilities that community partners hold in health research projects. The program discusses research ethics and responsible conduct of research in plain language and focuses on applying this knowledge to real-life scenarios.

"Ideally, CIRTification will not only teach community partners about the importance of protecting research participants, it will also empower them to be active contributors to their respective research teams," said Emily E. Anderson, PhD, MPH, a research ethicist and director of the CCTS Regulatory and Bioethics Core.

Course content introduces learners to the basics of research and reviews the history of research abuse that laid the foundation for current ethical considerations around involvement in research, as well as the importance of engaging communities in research. It also covers study eligibility and informed consent, how to work with Institutional Review Boards, data collection and protection and troubleshooting challenges in the field.

CIRTification Online includes audio, text, video, and interactive activities. Learners complete a knowledge quiz at the end of the program and receive a date-stamped certificate of completion. The program takes about four hours and can be completed in multiple sessions. CIRTification Online also includes a dictionary of research terms and a toolbox with resources related to human research protections that is accessible during and after completion.

Institutions interested in adopting CIRTification Online as an official training option for their community research partners should work with their Institutional Review Boards in conjunction with Dr. Anderson.

To learn more, visit <https://ccts.uic.edu/tools/cirtification/online/>.

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