



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN RESEARCH

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**March 03, 2025** Institutional Review Board Conference

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**March 04, 2025** Annual Institutional Biosafety Committee Conference

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**March 05, 2025** Annual Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Conference

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*This conference is also being streamed to allow for virtual attendance.*

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**NWABR**  
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research

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Seattle Children's Research Institute  
Building Cure  
1920 Terry Ave., Seattle, WA 98101  
melissa@nwabr.org | nwabr.org

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As one of the top five pediatric research centers in the nation, we bring together the best minds in pediatric research to set new standards of pediatric care and find new cures for childhood diseases. Our goal is that every patient at Seattle Children's has the opportunity to participate in, or benefit from, our groundbreaking research.

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Emergency Information, Pre-Arranged Meals, Special Requests.  
Check with the main registration table for onsite solutions.

## SAVE THESE DATES

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<b>MAY 7, 2025</b>	Clinical Research Professional Conference
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<b>JUNE 23 – AUGUST 15, 2025</b>	NWABR's Camp BIOMed, weekly, for high school students in Spokane and Seattle, WA
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<b>TBD</b>	CyberBIO 2025
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<b>FALL 2025</b>	NWABR Annual Leadership Awards Gala
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On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research Conference Steering Committees, it is a pleasure for me to welcome you to NWABR's annual regional IRB, IBC, and IACUC Conferences. The theme for the conferences is *Community Connections in Research*, meant to convey the critical role of collaboration not just between elements of the research community, but also relationships with the public communities and the awesome purpose we serve.

We are seeing new kinds of research and research challenges with new uncertainty, new rules, new procedures, new people and constantly new vulnerabilities. These conferences deliberately look to the future to see how the intertwined work of IRB, IBC, and IACUC can continue to ensure research integrity, and protections for research participants and staff. There is no doubt that the work we oversee will be instrumental in helping the world to rally to a new and hopeful position on research and health.

Today we connect stakeholders from nonprofit, private and public entities who are concerned with animal care, ethical research, research with human participants and the protection of excellence of institutional research programs. We think that inspiring a more effective and high-quality culture of compliance supports the goal of moving critical research forward in human health and animal health.

This conference series was created to offer a practical overview for new IRB, IBC and IACUC members, biomedical community members and researchers, and to also generate an

enriched understanding of responsibilities for seasoned professionals. We encourage networking and discussion, as the conferences consider laws, regulations, standards, policies and strategies impacting IRB, IBC and IACUC responsibilities. We hope the subject experts you meet will provide knowledge, resources and a greater network of support, options and solutions. The IRB, IBC and IACUC conferences provide support for the long-term core strategy at NWABR that includes several annual conferences promoting shared knowledge and peer engagement. Fostering community among institutions and stakeholders is a core component of our mission to promote the public's trust in biomedical research, and its ethical conduct.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our platinum sponsors, the University of Washington and WCG; our hosting sponsor, Seattle Children's Research Institute; and our other sponsors and event partners for their generous support. We also have an impressive group of talented presenters bringing their expertise to the podium and panels. We are honored that each of you has chosen to participate. We hope that discussing best practices and the other exchanges will directly help your daily work. Finally, please let NWABR know if we can do anything to further support this vital work. NWABR is a membership association and it is the comments and suggestions from you, our key stakeholders, that enable us to continue to improve as an organization serving this vital community.

Gordon Roble  
Board President, NWABR

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Gordon Roble DVM, MBA is Associate Vice President of Shared Resources, Fred Hutch

## Institutional Review Board

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION	SPEAKERS
8:30 - 8:45	Opening Remarks: We are the Movement	Melissa R. Tribelhorn, MPA
8:45 - 9:45	Best Practices for Effectively Addressing Public Inquiries and Complaints about Human Subjects Research	Linda Coleman, JD, CIP, CHC, CHRC, CCEP-I
9:45 - 10:15		<b>Break</b>
10:15 - 11:14	Panel: Climbing the Ladder of IRB Review - Finding the Right Rung	Emily Guthrie, PhD Tanya Matthews, PhD R. Bert Wilkins, JD, MHA, CIP
11:15 - 12:15	Crafting Compelling Research Stories: Navigating Media, IRB Guidelines, and Ethical Boundaries	Karen Hunt
12:15 - 1:30	Join us for Affinity Tables	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 - 2:30	How Will the Use of AI in Research Impact Your HRPP?	James Riddle, MCSE, CIP, CPIA, CRQM
2:30 - 3:00		<b>Break</b>
3:00 - 4:00	The Business Case for DEI in Clinical Trials	Tara Coffin, PhD, MEd, CIP
4:00 - 4:50	The Data Left Behind: Confronting the Challenges of Researching Strategically Excluded Populations	Doretha Walker, PhD, MPA Olga I. Balderas, JD
4:50 - 5:00	Closing Remarks	Melissa R. Tribelhorn, MPA Emily Guthrie, PhD Tanya Matthews, PhD R. Bert Wilkins, JD, MHA, CIP

## Institutional Biosafety Committee

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION	SPEAKERS
8:00 - 8:15	Opening Remarks: We are the Movement	Melissa R. Tribelhorn, MPA
8:15 - 9:15	Keynote	
9:15 - 10:00	Implementing Biosafety Best Practices for Cell Sorting	Michele Black
10:00 - 10:30		<b>Break</b>
10:30 - 11:45	Panel: The Role of IBC Communications: Crisis Management, Incident Training & Forces Majeures	Karen Hunt Kenna M. Gonzales, PhD J. Levi O'Loughlin, PhD
11:45 - 1:00		<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 - 2:15	Panel: Biosafety Incident Response	Patrick Davidson Allison Zelikoff, RN, MSN Lesley Decker, MS, RBP
2:15 - 2:30		<b>Break</b>
2:30 - 3:25	Risk assessment for clinical trials involving genetically modified bacteria or bacteriophages	Daniel Eisenman, PhD, RBP, SM(NRCM), CBSP
3:25 - 3:40		<b>Break</b>
3:40 - 4:10	Export Controls	J. Levi O'Loughlin, PhD
4:10 - 5:00	Genetic ReMODELing: Using DNA editing technologies to unlock superior nonhuman primate models of human disease	Ben Burwitz, PhD
5:00	Closing Remarks	Sarah Byers Kristi Kilgore

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

TIME	SESSION INFORMATION	SPEAKERS
7:30 - 9:00	Pre-Session: Why are you here? A History of the IACUC & IACUC Basics	Cynthia Pekow, DVM, DAACLAM, CPIA Heather Sidener, DVM, DAACLAM Shannon Ramsey
9:00 - 9:15		<b>Intro Transition/Break</b>
9:15 - 9:30	Opening Remarks: We are the Movement	Melissa R. Tribelhorn, MPA
9:30 - 10:30	Keynote: Culture of Care: Building Bridges between Research Goals and Ethical Practice	Sally Thompson-Iritani, DVM, PhD
10:30 - 11:00		<b>Break</b>
11:00 - Noon	Panel: Programmatic Approaches to Contemporary Issues	<i>Moderator:</i> Shannon Ramsey <i>Panelists:</i> Jennifer Wilk, DVM, DAACLAM Heather Sidener, DVM, DAACLAM Norman Peterson, DVM, PhD, DAACLAM <i>AAALAC Rep:</i> Lesley A. Colby, DVM, MS, DAACLAM
Noon - 1:00		<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 - 2:00	Mock IACUC	<i>Moderators:</i> Heather Sidener, DVM, DAACLAM & Shannon Ramsey <i>Mock IACUC Committee Members:</i> Kristine Coleman, PhD Norman Peterson, DVM, PhD, DAACLAM Jennifer Wilk, DVM, DAACLAM Jane M. Sullivan, PhD Ken Gordon <i>AAALAC Rep:</i> Lesley A. Colby, DVM, MS, DAACLAM
2:00 - 2:15		<b>Break</b>
2:15 - 3:15	IACUC Evaluation of Enrichment Programs	Kristine Coleman, PhD
3:15 - 3:30		<b>Break</b>
3:30 - 4:30	Fireside Chat: The Regulatory Environment in 2025	B. Taylor Bennett DVM, PhD, DAACLAM, DACAW Melissa Tribelhorn, MPA <i>Moderator:</i> Sally Thompson-Iritani, DVM, PhD
4:30	Closing Remarks	Shannon Ramsey & Heather Sidener, DVM, DAACLAM

**OLGA I. BALDERAS, JD****IRB Regulatory Chair**  
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360.570.1302

Olga I. Balderas is a seasoned legal and research professional with a unique blend of expertise in biomedical research, regulatory compliance, and advocacy for diverse and underserved populations. Currently serving as the IRB Regulatory Chair at WCG IRB, Olga brings over a decade of experience in navigating the legal, ethical, and regulatory challenges in clinical and biomedical research. In this role, Olga chairs board meetings, ensures compliance with federal and state laws, and provides ethical guidance to community Board Members, all while championing the resolution of complex issues related to the review and approval of research protocols.

With a robust academic background, including a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida's Levin College of Law, Olga has demonstrated leadership both within the legal field and in medical research settings. She has contributed to diverse areas of research, particularly in clinical trials, where inclusion of historically undervalued populations has been a key focus. Notably, Olga has published works on enhancing diversity in clinical research, while advocating for policy changes that increase representation in clinical trials.

A fluent Spanish speaker and cultural advocate, Olga has worked on legal matters related to immigration and has been deeply involved in initiatives aimed at improving community health and wellbeing, especially in Spanish-speaking communities. Through various volunteer and professional roles, Olga has shown a steadfast commitment to improving access to healthcare, legal resources, and educational support for vulnerable groups.

Through this blend of legal acumen, research expertise, and passion for inclusive practices, Olga is committed to reshaping the landscape of

biomedical research by ensuring that diverse, historically excluded and undervalued populations are adequately represented and that their voices are heard in research outcomes.

**B. TAYLOR BENNETT DVM, PHD, DACLAM, DACAW****Senior Scientific Advisor***National Association for Biomedical Research**btbdvm@yahoo.com*  
630-258-6752

Dr. B. Taylor Bennett did his undergraduate work at Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee. He obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University and his PhD. from the University of Illinois Medical School. He spent 36 years at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) overseeing their animal care and use program. The last ten of those years he served as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Resources where he oversaw 14 campus wide research support core facilities. He currently is a management consultant in the area of program evaluation and regulatory compliance and serves as the Senior Scientific Advisor for the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR).

Dr. Bennett has served as the President of the Association of Primate Veterinarians, the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science and the American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association for Biomedical Research, which he chaired, and the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. He has also served as the ASLAP Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the AVMA House of Delegates and on both the 1993 and 2000 AVMA Panel on Euthanasia. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of the ASLAP Foundation and on the Board of Directors of the Scientist Center for Animal Welfare

**MICHELE BLACK****Director of Flow Cytometry**  
*Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center**mblack@fredhutch.org*  
206-667-5941

Michele Black has over two decades of experience in flow cytometry, specializing in cell sorting, biosafety, and shared resource management. In 2001, Michele implemented a cell sorting biosafety SOP at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, establishing the first BSL3 cell sorting suite based on the seminal Schmid et al., Cytometry 1997 paper. This work set a new standard for biosafety in high-speed cell sorting.

In 2004, Michele further advanced laboratory safety by developing and implementing comprehensive shared resource lab safe working practices and biosafety protocols for the Cell Analysis Facility in the Department of Immunology at the University of Washington. This initiative significantly enhanced the safety and efficiency of cell sorting operations within the department.

Continuing to lead in the field, Michele returned to Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in 2021 and implemented a comprehensive cell sorting biosafety program for the Flow Cytometry Shared Resource Lab. This program integrates the latest guidelines and technologies to ensure the highest standards of safety for laboratory personnel and research integrity.

Michele has also consulted with numerous local and regional laboratories, helping them develop their own biosafety programs for safe working practices in cell sorting.

**BEN BURWITZ, PHD****Associate Professor in the Division of Pathobiology & Immunology**

*Oregon National Primate Research Center, Oregon Health & Science University*

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503-418-2054

Dr. Burwitz is an Associate Professor in the Division of Pathobiology & Immunology at the Oregon National Primate Research Center. He is a viral immunologist whose lab studies pathogen:host interactions in nonhuman primate models. Viruses his lab studies include human immunodeficiency virus, yellow fever virus, and hepatitis B virus. For the past 8 years, Dr. Burwitz has worked at the interface of genetic engineering and NHP models. Specifically, he created transgenic rhesus macaques susceptible to hepatitis B virus infection, opening a completed new avenue for testing of curative therapeutics.

**SARAH BYERS**

*Oregon Health & Science University*

**TARA COFFIN, PHD, MED, CIP****Regulatory Chair/Vice Chair**  
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**LESLEY A. COLBY, DVM, MS, DACLAM****Senior Director of Animal Resources and Operations**

*University of Washington*

**Member**

*AAALAC International Council on Accreditation*

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Dr. Lesley A. Colby is a Professor at the University of Washington (UW) in the Department of Comparative Medicine (DCM). In addition to her clinical, instructional, and research activities, her responsibilities include oversight of the daily operations

of DCM-managed animal research facilities as well as coordination of the renovation, design, and construction of animal research facilities. Dr. Colby also serves as Director of the UW BSL3/ABSL3 Select Agent Facility and is a member of the UW Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). Dr. Colby earned her BS in Animal Science from Virginia Tech and both her DVM and MS from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM). After working as a small animal practitioner in Montana, she returned to VMRCVM to complete a postdoctoral training program in Laboratory Animal Medicine. She then joined the faculty at the University of Michigan's Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine for 10 years during which time she served as Assistant Director as well as Director of their clinical laboratory animal medicine post-doctoral training program and Director of the University's BSL3/ABSL3 Select Agent Facility. Dr. Colby is board certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine and is a member of the AAALAC International Council on Accreditation. She frequently collaborates with health and safety professionals in numerous aspects of her position and has special interest in facility design, biological containment, teaching, and occupational health and safety.

**KRISTINE COLEMAN, PHD****Professor and Head of Behavioral Services Unit**

*Division of Comparative Medicine, Oregon National Primate Research Center*

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Kristine Coleman, PhD, is a Professor and Head of the Behavioral Services Unit in the Division of Comparative Medicine at the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC), Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Coleman received her PhD in behavioral ecology from Binghamton University, where she studied individual differences in temperament in pumpkinseed sunfish. She went to

the Oregon Regional (now National) Primate Research Center for her postdoctoral training and never left. Her research interests include individual differences in temperament and stress response and how these differences can affect welfare outcomes for captive macaques and other species. Since 2001, she has overseen the ONPRC behavioral management program, where she studies ways to improve the psychological well-being of laboratory macaques.

Dr. Coleman has coauthored over 150 papers, book chapters, and abstracts on various topics in the field of animal behavior and behavioral management, including a chapter in *Nonhuman Primates in Biomedical Research*, part of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine Series Blue Books. More recently, she co-edited the *Behavioral Biology of Laboratory Animals*, a 30-chapter volume examining the behavioral biology of animals commonly housed in laboratory and other captive settings, and was a Guest Editor for a special edition of *Animals* focused on the use of technology to enhance welfare. Dr. Coleman regularly teaches courses and workshops on behavioral management topics and is a member of a number of scientific societies, including the American Society of Primatologists, where she currently serves as President-elect and Co-Chair of the Member and Finance Committee. In addition, Dr. Coleman is Chair of the ONPRC IACUC, and an ad hoc specialist with AAALAC, International.

**LINDA COLEMAN, JD, CIP, CHC, CHRC, CCEP-I****Associate Vice Provost, Research Policy & Integrity**

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802-505-1100

Linda Coleman is the Associate Vice Provost, Research Policy & Integrity at Stanford University, where she oversees areas including research

security, conflict of interest, data governance and privacy, and the responsible and ethical conduct of research. Before joining Stanford, she was the Director of the Human Research Protection Program at Yale University. Prior to Yale, Linda held progressive roles, including Vice President of Legal & Regulatory Affairs and Director of Regulatory Affairs & General Counsel, at Quorum Review (now part of Advarra), an independent IRB and consulting organization serving institutional, independent, and international research sites. Earlier in her career, she worked as an Attorney at Bennett, Bigelow & Leedom, focusing on health law, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, litigation, behavioral health, and employment law.

Ms. Coleman is actively engaged in the research community and has contributed her expertise to various advisory and governance roles. She was a member of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protection (SACHRP) from 2019 to 2022, served as the Co-Chair on SACHRP's Subcommittee (SAS) from 2023-2024, and beginning in mid-2024 now serves as the Chair of the SACRP Subcommittee. Additionally, she serves on Boards such as the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP), Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research (PRIM&R), and the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR). She is also a frequent speaker on topics such as good clinical practice, decentralized clinical trials, data privacy & protection issues, process improvement, research quality & compliance, responsible and ethical conduct of research, global research issues, research capacity building, bioethics, global research issues, and improving access to healthcare and research participation.

#### **PATRICK DAVIDSON**

##### **Assistant Biosafety Officer and High-Containment Program Manager**

*Oregon Health & Science University*

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Patrick has seven years of experience working as a biosafety professional within the OHSU Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS). His role has primarily focused on biosafety oversight for high-containment research (BSL3/ABSL3) and biosafety support for the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC), located on OHSU's West Campus. He is also a member of the OHSU IBC and IACUC committees. Prior to his time in EHS, Patrick worked as a microbiologist and infectious disease researcher studying *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a risk group 3 pathogen, in one of OHSU's BSL3 laboratories.

#### **LESLEY DECKER, MS, RBP**

##### **Biosafety Manager**

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#### **DANIEL EISENMAN, PHD, RBP, SM(NRCM), CBSP**

##### **Executive Director**

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*919-287-4944*

Prior to joining Advarra, Daniel Eisenman served as Biosafety Officer at UNC Chapel Hill and the Medical University of South Carolina. Eisenman holds a PhD in Molecular Biology and Immunology from Augusta University, as well as various professional certifications in biological safety, including the Registered Biological Safety Professional (RBP) and Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP) certifications through the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) and as a Specialist Microbiologist in Biological Safety (SM(NRCM)) through the American Society for

Microbiology (ASM) National Registry of Certified Microbiologists (NRCM). He is also a devoted longtime educator, having taught microbiology at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Eisenman currently serves on the ABSA Owned Course Committee and is a regular speaker at clinical research conferences.

#### **KENNA M. GONZALES, PHD**

##### **Special Agent**

*FBI*

*Kmgonzales@fbi.gov*

*none*

Kenna M. Gonzales, PhD, is an FBI Special Agent with over a decade of criminal justice experience. She serves as an Assistant Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator and a representative of the Counterterrorism Program for the purposes of this conference.

FBI personnel work with academic and industry partners to protect advances in scientific research and biotechnology development and to prevent the misuse of biological knowledge, material, and technology. The FBI also supports U.S. health security in part by coordinating with global health security partners, Federal, State, Local and Tribal health partners to prevent, detect, and respond to biological incidents

#### **KEN GORDON**

##### **Chief Executive Officer**

*Washington State Veterinary*

*Medical Association*

*KenGordon@wsvma.org*

*(206) 595-2450*

In October 2023, Ken Gordon commenced as the Incoming CEO of the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association. Prior to joining WSVMA Ken led the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research for ten years. With post graduate qualifications focusing on finance and public policy, he adds non-profit studies from both Harvard and Stanford Graduate Schools of Business. A native of New Zealand, Ken has a cultural bias for helping small

organizations have an impact that belie their size. As a marathon runner and triathlete, he believes that even the biggest projects can be successful taken one step at a time. Outside of these roles Ken has also been a Board Member of the Chief Seattle Club, a non-profit that focuses on housing and other services for indigenous communities for 14 years.

#### **EMILY GUTHRIE, PHD**

**Associate Director of Operations**  
University of Washington

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*206.543.2305*

Emily Guthrie, PhD., is an expert in facilitating the review of complex, international, and time-sensitive research for the University of Washington IRB including rapid COVID response protocols, public health surveillance, socio-behavioral research methods and multi-country jurisdictional issues. As Associate Director of Operations at the UW IRB, she has been managing the operations of all the IRB Committees for over a decade. She oversees staff training, continuing education and frequently consults and lectures about IRB issues both on and off campus. Prior to that she did research and taught at the University of Oregon and was a research associate at the National Museums of Kenya.

#### **KAREN HUNT**

**Public Relations Specialist**  
Washington State University  
Office of Research

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Karen is an accomplished public relations professional with a wealth of experience in strategic communication and media relations. With a background spanning both higher education and the private sector, she has represented some of the Northwest's leading universities and Fortune 500 companies. As the Public Relations Coordinator for Washington State University's Office of Research, Karen

plays a pivotal role in promoting WSU's cutting-edge research and academic achievements. She serves as the driving force behind the Research Radar newsletter, ensuring the WSU research community is kept up to date on key developments and breakthroughs. Through the creation of compelling press releases and feature stories, Karen ensures that WSU's accomplishments receive the attention they deserve.

Before joining WSU, Karen was a Public Relations Manager at C Squared Advertising in Bellevue, Wash., where she led successful media relations campaigns for clients in the building products industry. She played an integral role in orchestrating media relations for high-profile events and executing a highly successful press conference, garnering significant media coverage and attendance for her client's brand relaunch. Karen also integrated influencer marketing into broader PR and social media strategies, expanding client reach.

Earlier in her career, Karen worked with the communications team for the University of Washington's HR/Payroll Modernization Project. In this role, she communicated the importance of transitioning from a legacy payroll system to an integrated, cloud-based HR system, highlighting the project's impact on the university's employees. At the University of Idaho, Karen honed her skills in media relations, crisis management, and storytelling. She was instrumental in elevating the university's visibility, pitching impactful stories, and securing national media coverage on topics ranging from the aftermath of the 2011 Japan tsunami to the prestigious Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival.

With a proven track record in media outreach, strategic communication, and content creation, Karen continues to shape the narrative of academic and research achievements, helping institutions communicate their impact and drive meaningful progress.

#### **KRISTI KILGORE**

*University of Washington*

#### **TANYA MATTHEWS, PHD**

**HRPP Director**

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Tanya Matthews, PhD is the director of the Human Research Protection Program for the Kaiser Permanente interregional IRB office and the liaison for KP Washington Health Research Institute. She also serves as the chair of the Education, Training, Research (ETR) IRB, a position she has held for 14 years. In addition to these roles, Tanya was the IRB chair for Group Health Cooperative and before that was the lead of an Expedited Review team at the University of Washington. She has over 18 years of human protection experience, including the oversight and development of IRB and HRPP programs.

Tanya has a strong interest in the value that IRBs bring to the research enterprise and is focused on partnering with researchers and research programs to ensure best practices in research, ethics, and regulatory compliance. She serves as a board member for the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR), is an active member of the Consortium to Advance Effective Research Ethics Oversight (AEREO) and, is a member of the IRB Directors group for the Health Care Systems Research Network (HCSRN). Tanya holds a PhD in linguistics from Cornell University and is a certified IRB professional.

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**CYNTHIA PEKOW, DVM, DACLAM, CPIA**

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Cynthia Pekow, DVM, DACLAM, CPIA is Chief of the Veterinary Medical Unit at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, since 1991. Her veterinary career began in small animal practice, followed by residency training in laboratory animal medicine at the University of Washington (UW). She is a Clinical Associate Professor in the UW Department of Comparative Medicine, a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, and a Certified Professional IACUC Administrator. In 2003 she served as President of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS). She is a past board member of the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research. She currently serves as President for the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS), and as a Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for AAALAC, International. Dr. Pekow is a former Board Member of NWABR.

**NORMAN C. PETERSON, DVM, PHD, DACLAM**

**Attending Veterinarian, Director,  
Drug Safety & Development**  
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Norman C. Peterson, DVM, PhD, DACLAM is the Director of Alternative Technologies & Imaging at Pfizer -Bothell. He has expertise in oncology, toxicology, in vivo imaging, and complex in vitro models. In addition to leading research in these areas, he is

the Attending Veterinarian and member of the Pfizer IACUC. Dr. Peterson joined the NWABR Board of Directors in 2021.

**SHANNON RAMSEY**

**Sr. Program Manager,  
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Shannon Ramsey began working in biomedical research in 2004. In 2005, she became the IACUC Administrator for an industry CRO. In 2013, she joined the Allen Institute in Seattle, WA and is currently the Senior Program Manager Research Compliance. In this role, she has responsibilities for IACUC, IBC, and Human Research Protections Administrator. She has a BA in history from the Evergreen State College, and is a Certified Professional IACUC Administrator and a Registered Laboratory Animal Technician.

Ms. Ramsey is a member of the board of the Northwest Association of Biomedical Research, and has served on the planning committee for NWABR's IACUC Conference since 2007 and its IBC Conference since 2015. She is a member of Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research and the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science.

**JAMES RIDDLE, MCSE, CIP, CPIA, CRQM**

**Senior Vice President, Global  
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James Riddle is the Senior Vice President of Global Review Operations at Advarra, the world's largest provider of ethics, safety, and compliance oversight reviews services. With 25+ years' experience providing support to the clinical research community, Riddle has operational responsibility for Advarra's global review services including IRB, IBC, DMC, EAC. In this role,

he helps sponsors, CROs, and research sites advance clinical research with a mission to improve human health.

Prior to Advarra, Riddle served as a senior leader within the research oversight and compliance office at the world-leading Fred Hutch / University of Washington Cancer Research Center. He also launched and led the consulting division of a major central IRB that became part of Advarra. He also served as Vice President of Operations and Director of Technology at another large central IRB organization.

His expertise includes developing and operationalizing processes for maximum efficiency, client satisfaction, and participant protection; development and implementation of technology solutions; and efficient, compliant operation of large clinical research review programs. He has also supported leading pharma companies in building clinical trial processes in the most efficient, effective, and regulatorily compliant ways possible.

Riddle is a regular speaker at industry events and has written abundantly on research compliance and efficiency topics. He is also a member of CTTI, NWABR, SASI, and PRIM&R.

**HEATHER SIDENER, DVM, DACLAM**

**Clinical Medicine Unit Head**  
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Dr. Heather Sidener is the Head of the Clinical Medicine Unit at the Oregon National Primate Research Center. She oversees VHRTs a team of 25 vets, veterinary technicians, and other staff responsible for providing veterinary care to ONPRC's 5000 monkeys and guidance to investigators who work with ONPRC's monkeys in research. Under ONPRC's Attending Vet, she ensures regulatory compliance for all veterinary aspects of ONPRC's animal care and use program, which includes more SOPs than she can count. Public outreach supporting the value of animal research to both humans and animals is a priority in her life. She

received her DVM from Washington State University in 2000, and after a short stint in private practice has been a lab animal/primate vet ever since. She's lived in the Pacific Northwest all her life, moving from Alaska to Seattle and finally to Portland, which is probably as far south as she'll go. She became a Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine in 2017.

#### **JANE M. SULLIVAN, PHD**

**Associate Professor & Chair, UW IACUC  
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Dr. Jane Sullivan received her BA in Neuroscience from Amherst College, and her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Utah. She did her postdoctoral work at the Salk Institute. In 2002, she joined the Department of Physiology & Biophysics at the University of Washington School of Medicine, where she is currently an Associate Professor. Her lab studies the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying communication between neurons using mouse models of healthy and pathological brain function. Since 2015, Dr. Sullivan has served as the Chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee that oversees the use of animals in research at the University of Washington.

#### **SALLY THOMPSON-IRITANI, DVM, PHD**

**Assistant Vice Provost  
Animal Care, Outreach & 3Rs,  
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Sally Thompson-Iritani, DVM/PhD, is the Assistant Vice Provost for Animal Care, Outreach, and the 3Rs at the University of Washington's Office of Research, where she promotes a culture of care through 3Rs principles (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement), outreach initiatives, and the Dare to Care (D2C) program. With extensive experience in industry and academia as a laboratory animal veterinarian,

IACUC administrator, and preclinical researcher, she is certified in IACUC administration and compassion fatigue.

In 2024, she was honored with the AALAS Charles River Award, which recognizes exceptional contributions to laboratory animal science and animal welfare. At UW, she leads initiatives supporting personnel who work with research animals and embeds the 3Rs into the institutional culture. Nationally, she serves as President of the 3Rs Collaborative, Chair of the BAHSCR Roundtable, Vice-Chair of USARO, and a board member of SCAW, SACATM, WSVMA, and the Feral Cat Spay and Neuter Project. Her leadership continues to drive ethical practices and a culture of care within the UW and the broader research community.

#### **MELISSA R. TRIBELHORN, MPA**

**Executive Director  
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Melissa Tribelhorn has dedicated her career to advocating for educational and healthcare programs that reduce barriers and change lives. As Northwest Association for Biomedical Research's CEO/Executive Director, she works to strengthen and promote the public's trust in the biomedical research community. Her early work with HIV prevention education in sub-Saharan Africa grounded her philosophy that social justice and collaborative leadership are the cornerstones of equitable and sustainable policies and programs. Melissa's more recent roles in nonprofit management have provided her with extensive experience managing organizations, teams, finances, operations, youth and adult educational programs, and strategic planning. Melissa holds an MPA from Seattle University and lives in Seattle with her incredibly active preschooler.

#### **DORETHA WALKER, PHD, MPA**

**Social Behavioral Researcher  
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Dr. Doretha Walker is a United States Army veteran, independent scholar, researcher, social behavioral researcher, and thought leader with extensive experience in public policy, social science research, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) education. She holds a PhD. in Public Policy and Administration from Walden University, specializing in Public Management and Leadership, with a dissertation examining the lived experiences of female state legislators. She also holds a Master of Public Administration from Ball State University that she received while on active duty and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from the University of Alabama.

With a career spanning the military, academia, industry, and the nonprofit sector, Dr. Walker's expertise lies in researching and advocating for strategically excluded populations. As a Courtesy Research Faculty member at Florida Gulf Coast University and an Institutional Review Board (IRB) member at Rutgers University and WCG, she contributes to ethical oversight in human participant research and reviews clinical protocols. She is also a founding member of the Impostor Phenomenon Research Collaborative (IPRC) and serves on the PRIM&R Annual Conference Poster Review Committee.

Dr. Walker has held key leadership positions, including Program Director and Assistant Professor at South University, where she developed and led public administration and business programs. Her work extends beyond academia into community advocacy, having served as Chief Mission Officer at Central Alabama YWCA, and other nonprofits where she led social justice initiatives and community-based programs.

Her scholarship and presentations focus on the intersection of research ethics, DEI, and public policy. She has

presented at national conferences such as PRIM&R and APA, with notable contributions on topics including implicit bias in research leadership, impostor phenomenon in academia, and community-based research ethics.

**JENNIFER WILK, DVM, DACLAM**

**Attending Veterinarian, Director of Comparative Medicine**

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Dr. Jennifer Wilk received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Washington State University in 1995 and became a Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine in 2009. She has worked as the Attending Veterinarian and Director of Comparative Medicine at the Legacy Research Institute since 2015. She is also the consulting Attending Veterinarian for the Providence Cancer Institute, Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute, Pacific University, and Yecuris Corporation. She previously served as an instructor for the Veterinary Technology College of Portland Community College and continues to serve on their IACUC and Vet Tech Advisory Board.

**R. BERT WILKINS, JD, MHA, CIP**

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R. Bert Wilkins is one of the Regulatory Chair Directors at WCG. Bert has been working for IRBs since 2007. In this role, Bert advises the IRB, our staff, and clients on the appropriateness and regulatory aspects of a wide array of research including FDA regulated studies, Social/Behavioral Health, International research, Emergency Research, and research involving vulnerable subjects.

Bert has earned a Juris Doctorate from Seattle University, a Master of Healthcare Administration from

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Bachelor of Science from the University of Washington.

**ALLISON ZELIKOFF RN, MSN**

**Nurse Manager**

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Allison's background is rooted in public health nursing with experience providing direct patient care in the community, outpatient, and acute care settings before transitioning to nursing leadership. She served as the program manager for Occupational Health at Harborview Medical Center throughout the COVID-19 pandemic before transitioning to Fred Hutch Cancer Center (FHCC). As the nurse manager for Occupational Health at FHCC, she serves employees in patient care, research, and all other roles across the organization. In partnership with biosafety and infectious disease, FHCC Occupational Health is responsible for developing education and responding to exposure events that occur on campus in any of our facilities.