CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

TO: University of Massachusetts Medical School Faculty and Staff

FROM: Katherine Luzuriaga, MD, Vice Provost for Clinical and Translational Research
Allison Blodgett, PhD, CIP, Director of IRB Operations

DATE: June 7, 2021

RE: eIRB Upgrade with Targeted October 2021 Go-Live Date

As you may be aware, eIRB is being upgraded to a cloud-based environment that will provide greater product stability. This is a result of an RFP process that engaged members of our research community in the search, with project kick-off in Fall 2020 and an anticipated go-live date of October 2021.

The eIRB Implementation Team continues to make progress in our transition to a hosted IRB solution, including finalizing configuration and initiating system testing. As part of the configuration, we have worked to incorporate improvements that many of you have voiced over the years and that we continued to hear during onboarding.

System testing is currently being conducted, working through real-world test scripts to ensure the system meets our compliance standards and requirements. Testing is expected to conclude in September 2021. Concurrently, training will commence in late summer in order to prepare investigators and study staff for an October 2021 go-live.

Project Timeline:

Our implementation team has been working diligently with a focus on achieving the objectives to deploy a system that continues to provide our user community with a high-quality user interface and streamlined process flow. We want to extend our deepest gratitude for the effort and support from our implementation team and our project champions.

In anticipation of an October 2021 transition to the new system, we are recommending that researchers submit their continuing reviews beginning now for studies that are due to expire in September, October, November, or December. Researchers are also advised that for a period of time the IRB will likely need to halt receipt of new studies, modifications, and continuing reviews to ensure data integrity across the two systems. We will do our best to keep the period as short as possible and to minimize the impact this

may have on researchers. We encourage researchers to think ahead to time sensitive submissions (e.g., NIH JIT awards) that may require attention during this period and to submit to the IRB well in advance.

Please look for continued communications as we progress along the project timeline.

Please contact Allison Blodgett, Director of IRB Operations (Allison.Blodgett@umassmed.edu), with any questions or concerns.