

CONTACT: Alicia Gregory, (859) 257-2980

FOR RELEASE

UK Exceeds Federal Standards in Protecting Volunteers

LEXINGTON, Ky. (July 26, 2007) – Following a rigorous, three-year evaluation process, the [University of Kentucky's research program](#) has received full accreditation by the [Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs Inc.](#) (AAHRPP).

Seeking accreditation is voluntary. UK Provost Kumble Subbaswamy said, "Achieving accreditation demonstrates UK's commitment to the highest ethical standards in conducting human research. This accreditation signals to research volunteers that we put their safety first and embrace standards that are higher than required by law. It also indicates to sponsors and investigators the efficiency and quality of our research program. This is a great achievement for UK's research enterprise."

Currently, more than 3,000 active research studies, involving thousands of volunteers across the state and in the region, are under way. Volunteers are a vital part of UK studies in a myriad of areas, including social, diagnostic and therapeutic programs for our aging population, drug and alcohol prevention projects, programs targeting children with disabilities, new teaching curriculum, and clinical trials to test new drugs and devices.

"There are more than 100 faculty, staff and community members who invest a great deal of time to ensure the rights and welfare of our research volunteers by serving on our institutional review boards for both the UK and VA medical centers," said Ada Sue Selwitz, director of UK's Office of Research Integrity. "These dedicated individuals deserve our thanks and appreciation."

AAHRPP standards exceed federal regulations in two ways: the protections required by the federal government for federally sponsored or regulated research are extended to *all* research, and AAHRPP requires additional protections, such as conflict of interest rules and community education.

“The AAHRPP accreditation is a clear indication that UK is on the right path in our quest to become a Top 20 public research university,” said UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. “It shows that even as we grow our research enterprise, we remain focused on doing so in a safe, effective and efficient manner.”

“Through the intensive accreditation process, organizations must be able to demonstrate that extensive safeguards are built into every level of their research operation,” said Marjorie A. Speers, AAHRPP executive director.

A nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., AAHRPP works with organizations that conduct human research to raise the level of protection for research participants. Since AAHRPP’s founding in 2001, 68 organizations have received accreditation, and another 400 organizations are currently undergoing the accreditation process, which includes site visits from experts in the field who volunteer for AAHRPP. Accreditation is valid for three years.

For more on UK’s Office of Research Integrity, see www.research.uky.edu/ori.

###

In striving to become a Top 20 public research institution, the University of Kentucky is a catalyst for a new Commonwealth – a Kentucky that is healthier, better educated, and positioned to compete in a global and changing economy. For more information about UK’s efforts to become a Top 20 university, please go to <http://www.uky.edu/OPBPA/Top20.html>.