

## **Chapman IRB Policy Regarding Solicitation of Research Participants via Electronic Communication**

Includes Facebook, MySpace, direct email, listservs, Blackboard and other means

When recruiting participants for a research study, the researcher **MUST** keep in mind that all potential contacts (1) have a right to be left alone, and (2) have the right to have their anonymity protected at all times during the research process, including during recruitment.

**For these reasons, the Chapman IRB does not permit faculty or student researchers to advertise for research study participants by sending unsolicited email, or disseminating electronic notices through use of the *Blackboard* or any similar system, to any person who has not previously expressed in writing a desire to receive such communications and to potentially participate in such studies.** For example, a researcher may send an email soliciting study participation to a member of the Psychology Department's Subject Pool, if the member has indicated a desire to receive such communications and has provided a valid email address to the department for this specific use.

Researchers may not send email "blasts" to persons in their personal or professional address books, to listservs, or other membership lists including course enrollments via Blackboard, nor may they request that or encourage their friends, family, or acquaintances to do so on their behalf. Failure to comply with this policy may result in the termination of study approval by the IRB.

If direct email soliciting participation is sent to previously identified interested persons, (1) the email address of the recipient must be "blinded" so as to protect the anonymity of the recipient, and (2) the email must contain instructions to the recipient not to forward the advertisement to any other persons. Failure to comply with this policy may result in the termination of study approval by the IRB.