

IMPROVING RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION WITH RESEARCH STAKEHOLDERS

FERCAP Topic: Effective Communication Practice

 sjreb.doh@gmail.com



Kevin G. Martinez

- Health Program Officer I
- SJREB Secretariat
- Health Research Division - Health Policy
Development and Planning Bureau
- Department of Health
- Five Years with the Department of Health
- Education: Bachelor of Arts in Communication,
Far Eastern University, Class of 2019



Introduction

Single Joint Research Ethics Board

- Purpose: The Single Joint Research Ethics Board (SJREB) plays a crucial role in the ethics review of multicenter protocols in the Philippines.
- This initiative has been put in place to streamline the ethics review process within the Department and contribute to the improvement of the research ethics governance system in the country



Background

SJREB

- Operations: SJREB started in March 2018, serving as a central platform for the joint review of multi-site research studies sponsored by DOH or conducted across Philippine DOH retained - hospitals.



Coordination Challenges between SJREB and RECs/Sponsors

Key Issues:

- ✓ **Duplication of Efforts:** Repetitive reviews led to unnecessary delays.
- ✓ **Manual Processing:** Dependent on non-automated methods, causing bottlenecks and errors.
- ✓ **Lack of Standardization:** Inconsistencies across procedures affected efficiency.



Importance of Effective Communication

- ✓ **Streamlined Coordination:**

Clear communication with local RECs, principal investigators, and sponsors reduces duplications and ensures efficient workflow.

- ✓ **Timely Decision-Making:**

Clarifies requirements to reduce delays, speeding up multi-site ethics reviews.

- ✓ **Transparency and Trust:**

Timely updates and clear guidelines build trust with RECs, principal investigators, and sponsors.

- ✓ **Stakeholder Engagement:**

Keeps RECs informed and engaged, fostering stronger support for SJREB's ethics reviews.



Objective

To explore and implement improvements in SJREB's communication system, addressing bottlenecks and streamlining its operations for more effective ethics review processes.

Impact Assessment of SJREB Research Methodology

Approach: Mixed-method assessment of SJREB's communication system.

- Document Review
- Survey
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)



Stakeholders Surveyed

- Participants:
 - REC members and staff
 - Sponsors
 - Principal investigators provided insights.
- Feedback: Consistently reported gaps in communication, such as delays and lack of clarity in requirements.



Key Findings

Site RECs

Issues Identified:

- Unable to commit to attending the SJREB full board meeting, leading to a lack of quorum for voting on SJREB decisions and recommendations.

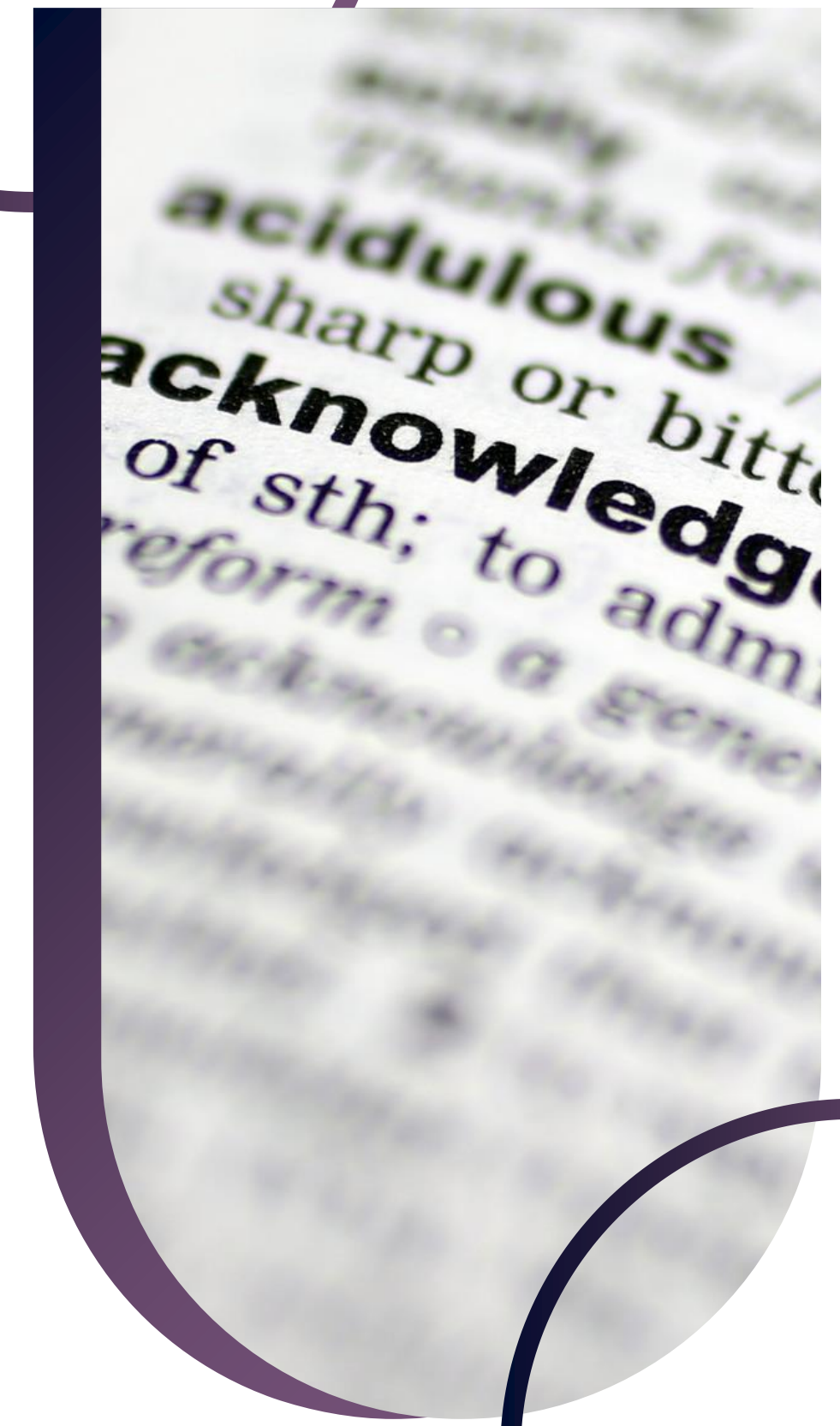


Key Findings

Sponsors/Investigators

Issues Identified:

- Prolonged response time.
- Rushing to meet the submission deadline of SJREB resulted in incomplete requirements, leading to a request for an extension
- Multiple emails being sent to SJREB resulted in duplicate submissions.
- Unclear interpretations of SJREB Standard Operating Procedures
- Incorrect use and submission of SJREB forms results in repeated resubmissions



Frequently Asked Questions

Sponsors

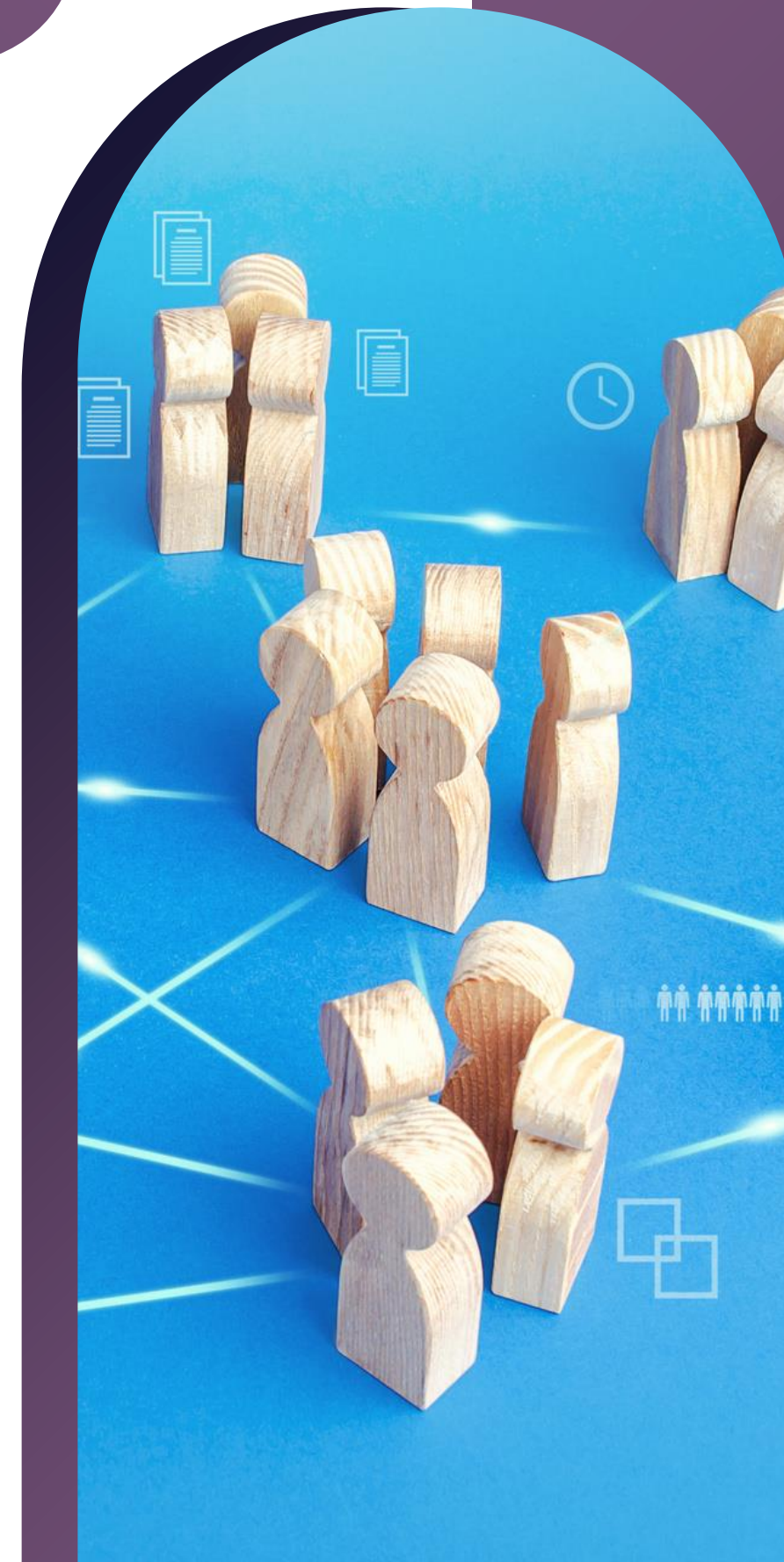
- What are the sites that participate in SJREB?
- What is the standard turnaround time for SJREB review

Principal Investigator

- Would it be possible to submit directly to SJREB and bypass the local RECs?
- Is it possible to use one form in submitting to SJREB and local RECs?

RECs

- What is the standard time for the release of the decision letter and minutes of the meeting
- When will the invitation for submission and the meeting agenda be sent?



Solutions Implemented by SJREB

System Enhancements:

✓ Streamlined Processing:

- Revision of SOP
- Created a clear definite timeline for each type of submissions and process flow
- Created a viber group for SJREB Member and RECs



Solutions Implemented by SJREB

System Enhancements:

✓ Real-Time Communication:

- Nomination of Communication Officer
- Created a viber group for SJREB Member and RECs
- Compliance with the 3-day response time for all inquiries and submissions

✓ Utilization of database:

- Created a updated directory of RECS and sponsors
- The SJREB database is consistently updated.

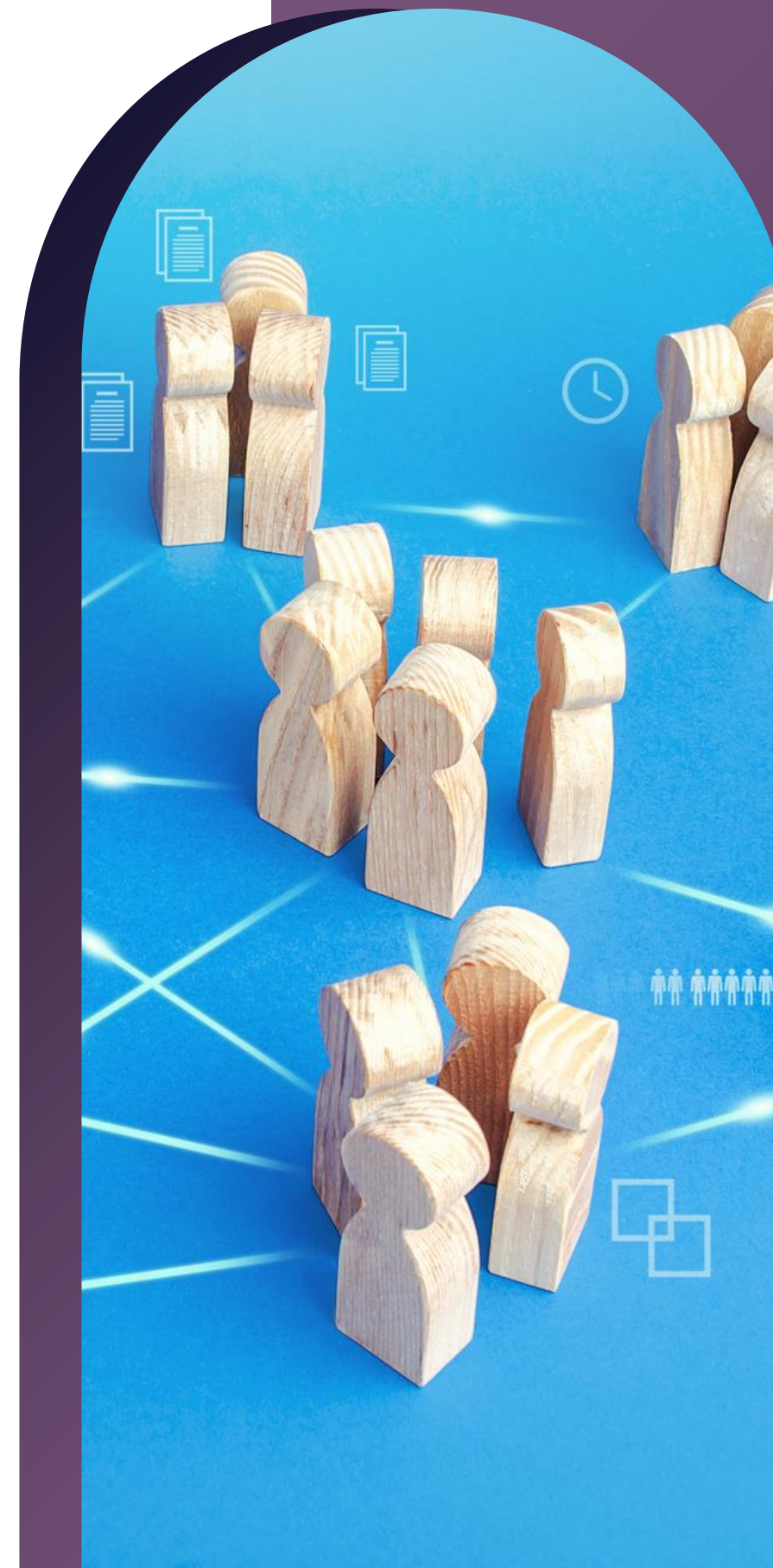


Targeted Training

Programs

Training Initiatives:

- **Process Efficiency:** Targeted training will help reduce redundancies and increase processing efficiency.
- **Coordination:** Will improve coordination between SJREB and local RECs.



Results of Implemented

Improvements



Enhanced Engagement:

Better communication consistency and stakeholder participation.



Transparency:

Improved transparency and timeliness in ethics review processes.

Conclusion



Impact of Improvements:

Implemented Solutions yielded positive effects on ethics review quality and operational efficiency.

Capacity-building initiatives have bolstered the overall competence and reliability of research ethics oversight.

Future Directions



Continuous Improvement:

- ✓ Ongoing refinement of communication practices.
- ✓ Continued focus on stakeholder feedback to foster a culture of awareness, engagement, and ethical standards in research oversight.



Single Joint Research Ethics Board

THANK YOU

Contact Us



Telephone
(02) 8651-7800 local 1328
and 1328



Email
sjreb.doh@gmail.com

