Spring 2019 Update:

The IRB subgroup project has spurred several IRB process/system enhancements and allowed the IRB Directors and AURA IT to come together for a holistic review of all IRB applications, related policies, and processes:

- The self-exemption tool draft is complete and continues to be evaluated for final edits, definitions, required help text, and form integration/system testing requirements and possibilities
- The process of creating the exemption tool has driven general AURA system upgrades, form revisions, and process assessments. Overall, it has paved the way for additional faculty suggestions and concerns to be addressed, guidance to be created and offered, and processes/flexibilities to be shared across IRBs
- The project has brought together the IRB Directors and AURA IT to work through revisions to the BSD, SSA and SBS IRB applications (e.g., combining and assessing all forms and application questions, simplifying the number of documents, and facilitating consistent processes for investigators who submit to multiple IRBs)
- AURA IT, URA, and the IRB directors now meet monthly as a large group and weekly in a smaller subgroup to implement the AURA IRB project plan, with an eye toward improving the user experience, simplifying forms/processes, and improving timelines
- The revisions and analysis have also helped the process by identifying critical questions and data points that must be collected and mapped for reporting. Simplifying the applications and data reporting needs will allow speedier AURA system modifications and edits when needed, and will also increase the system’s performance (e.g., solve issues of system crashes, timeouts, errors, etc.). The assessment has already resulted in additional steps being taken to speed the responsiveness of the AURA system, the identification of critical patches, and the prioritization of future changes
- The IRB offices have shared documents, templates, and strategies for process improvement and consistency, and have also worked with related offices on identifying additional key areas for assessment, process improvement, and guidance