

## **2007 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair Scientific Review Committee Report**

This year, we had 281 projects to review and the SRC Determinations (after corrections were sent in) broke out as follows:

- Complete Projects – 208 (74.0%)
- Minor Corrections Needed – 23 (8.2%)
- Major Corrections Needed – 17 (6.0%)
- Questions Needing Answered – 23 (8.2%)
- Interviews – 10 (3.6%)
- Violations – 0 (0.0%)

The response to e-mails and faxes sent out was incredible. We were able to fix a lot of the problems prior to CSEF. The most common minor issues were:

- Form 1 not being marked correctly for the type of project.
- Form 1 A not having correct addresses for work sites. Remember that a P O Box is NOT a work site – physical locations need to be given.
- Form 4 not having the Medical Professional identified properly. Remember to have them circle their designation.

The issues that caused the most concern for the SRC were:

- Invalid IRBs. Remember that Adult Sponsors, Qualified Scientists, Designated Supervisors, and Parents CANNOT be a member of the IRB reviewing a human subjects project. It is a conflict of interest – you want fresh sets of eyes reviewing the procedures.
- Not having enough information in the procedures to determine exactly what was done. The more information that is given about what the student did for the experimentation part of the project the better.
- Missing a Risk Assessment Form 3 for obviously hazardous items used in the project. It would be prudent to have all students complete this form for every type of project – it is a great teaching tool.
- Missing critical information and regulatory board review paperwork for projects done at Regulated Research Institutes. Remember that all universities and research labs will have their own IRB and SRC that should be reviewing a student's project prior to their doing work there (where applicable – animals, biological hazards, and humans).

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair SRC has made very few changes to the forms and rules for 2008. These changes include:

- Clarifying the rules involving human subjects and product testing.