



Compliance TODAY

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**Strengthening the
relationship between
DOJ attorneys
and compliance
professionals**

an interview with
Michael D. Granston



FEATURES

- 16 **Meet Michael D. Granston**
an interview by **Gabriel L. Imperato**
- 24 [CEU] **What compliance officers should know about state False Claims Acts**
by **Michael A. Morse**
Many states have their own FCA statutes for combatting Medicaid fraud, giving them authority, in addition to federal laws, to investigate, litigate, and resolve claims.
- 32 **Incorporating government guidance in compliance programs still recommended, despite DOJ declarations**
by **Jennifer Evans, Dayna LaPlante, and Ryan McAteer**
A brief overview of the key compliance documents and memoranda issued by the DOJ and OIG regarding binding guidance for compliance programs.
- 40 [CEU] **Is the sky falling? GDPR implications in the US**
by **Adam H. Greene and Lyra Correa**
U.S. healthcare providers should carefully review whether they fall under the European General Data Protection Regulation and take steps to avoid possible penalties.
- 48 **Protecting the attorney-client privilege in corporate compliance matters**
by **Richard W. Westling and Clay Lee**
Determining whether the “primary purpose” test is met when evaluating communications between an in-house attorney and other corporate officers or employees is often complicated.



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COLUMNS

- 3 **Letter from the Incoming CEO**
by **Gerry Zack**
- 5 **Letter from the CEO**
by **Roy Snell**
- 23 **Exhale**
by **Catherine Boerner**
- 31 **Managing Compliance**
by **Lynda S. Hilliard**
- 39 **The Compliance – Quality Connection**
by **Sharon Parsley**
- 47 **Security Awareness Reminder**
by **Frank Ruelas**
- 53 **Samantha Says**
by **Samantha Kelen**
- 59 **Reflections in Research**
by **Kelly M. Willenberg**

DEPARTMENTS

- 8 **News**
- 15 **People on the Move**
- 82 **Newly Certified Designees**
- 84 **New Members**
- 87 **Takeaways**
- 88 **Upcoming Events**

by Kelly M. Willenberg, DBA, RN, CCRP, CHRC, CHC

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It's been a year since my life was turned upside down. In that time, my research compliance life has been the only part of my life that is somewhat normal. Every day has presented me with new challenges and some chaotic times. Your life as a research



Willenberg

compliance professional is probably very similar. You need to be on both the offensive and defensive sides to manage the research playbook.

One forward pass that is not yet certain is the revised Common Rule, which has been postponed yet again. According to Laura Odwazny, a Senior Attorney

with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who spoke at the Research Compliance Conference in Austin last June, the goal of the update was to provide three burden-reducing provisions. These include: (1) a revised definition of "research"; (2) eliminating Institutional Review Board (IRB) review of certain funding proposals and grant applications; and (3) no continuing review for certain low-risk research, unless an IRB requires it.

How will you "move the ball" *if* and *when* these changes happen? Will you view these changes as a touchdown or a fumble? It may be extremely hard to put the changes in place.

Lisa Murtha, a Senior Managing Director at Ankura, provided a "Research Year in Review" in Austin as well, which outlined FDA and NIH regulatory updates, new research-related enforcement initiatives, and settlements. As a research

compliance community, we all need to strengthen our review of changes annually. With research fraud allegations on the rise, more and more grant management questions, and a review of the CMS system used to pay Medicare Advantage Organizations on the radar, you need a knowledgeable research compliance officer as your quarterback. Provide support for optimization as you prepare for kickoff continually.

Artificial intelligence and security will likely put points on the scoreboard that we are not even considering today.

What does 2019 mean for research compliance? There will certainly be rookies who bring our attention to new challenges that we have not considered. Artificial intelligence and security will likely put points on the scoreboard that we are not even considering today. Not all of us will score a touchdown in our daily work! Think about your challenges and what you have to offer, and consider putting in a submission for speaker consideration at the 2019 Research Compliance Conference. Submissions are being accepted now through September 30th. As a team member on the research gridiron, do not look at your career as a 4th and long, but rather each day as a 1st and 10! 🏈