L. Cliff Rhodes

How long have you worked at Baystate?

I just passed my 2-year anniversary.

What did you do prior to coming to Baystate?

Before Baystate, I was working at the Vanderbilt IRB as an analyst. I had been working there for about 3 years.

What are your responsibilities in your current role?

My current responsibilities include processing submissions that are submitted in IRBNet, consulting study teams on how to progress their IRB submission and provide education to the research community. I had recently been filling the role of our reliance analyst, but those duties are being shifted to Lauryn Esposito.

What do you enjoy most about your role in the HRPP/IRB department?

I truly enjoy the satisfaction of helping study teams navigate the IRB. I have worked in the IRB for half a decade, and I like to share the knowledge I've gained in a meaningful way. The gratitude from a student trying to get their project approved or a seasoned Investigator learning a new process nourishes my want to continue in this industry.

What have been some of your accomplishments at Baystate?

When I first started at Baystate, there was a large push to reform the image of the Baystate IRB. There is a stereotype that the IRB is a roadblock and unnecessarily complicated for research. To change this image, I did a lot of outreach to investigators for consults to assist them in navigating the IRB. There was also an initiative to simplify IRB forms and templates. The revised consent template and elements of consent checklist was a project I lead.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I have two children ages 2 years and 8 months. They take up most of my outside work time. However, when I do get some time to myself, I like to garden and landscape my yard. This year's projects included building a play structure for the kids and to develop a wall of Wisteria on my porch.

What is one interesting fact that we may not know about you?

Despite some of the rougher activities I enjoy, I have never broken a bone. Drink your milk.