Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects

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The UTHealth Houston Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) is committed to continuous quality improvement. This means we actively reflect on and refine our processes, ensuring efficient and effective review. We gather feedback from researchers, analyze data, and implement evidence-based changes. This ongoing loop strengthens our ability to safeguard research participants while fostering scientific progress, ultimately promoting a culture of excellence in ethical research conduct.

As part of the quality improvement effort, the HRPP earned full accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) in June 2009 and has maintained its accredited status continuously since then.

The quality assurance plan includes review of IRB metrics and feedback from the research community to assess the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the program and make improvements, when necessary, to increase the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the program.

This report dives into the UTHealth Houston IRB’s operations in 2023. It includes data on the submissions reviewed by the IRB in 2023, including types of submissions and turnaround time.

If you have questions, suggestions, or feedback, or if you would like more information about IRB operations, please contact cphs@uth.tmc.edu.
IRB PERSONNEL

IRB Leadership

Institutional Official
Anne Dougherty, MD
Vice President, Human Research Protection Program

IRB Panel 1
Chair: Rebecca Lunstroth, JD
Vice Chair: Rita Swinford, MD

IRB Panel 2
Chair: Deborah Brown, MD
Vice Chair: Francine Snow, DrPH

IRB Panel 3
Chair: Charles Miller, PhD
Vice Chair: Catherine Thompson, BSN, MPH

IRB Panel 4
Chair: Max Buja, MD
Vice Chair: Joy Schmitz, PhD

IRB Membership Roster: Current Term - September 2023 to August 2024

IRB Staff:
Sylvia Romo, BSBM, Assistant Director, Research Compliance
Susan Vanessa Fuller, BS, IRB Manager
Alba Zeigler, BS, CPhT, IRB Coordinator
Chandni Chaudhari, MD, IRB Coordinator
Gabrielle Longo, BS, IRB Coordinator
Ryesha Cook, MBA, IRB Coordinator
Meagan Olivares, BS, CCRP, Research Compliance Specialist (Reliance Agreements)
Laura Lincoln, BS, IRB Coordinator (QI Registry)
Adrick Harris, BS, Graduate Research Assistant
Barbara Legate, BS, Sr. Business Systems Analyst (iRIS Support)

Research Compliance Staff:
Sujatha Sridhar, MBBS, Associate Vice President, Research Compliance (IRB Policies)
Elizabeth Gendel, PhD, Director, Research Compliance (Regulatory Reviewer)
Shwetha Pazhoor, MS, Sr. Research Compliance Specialist (Post-Approval Audits)
Jessica Martinez, MPH, Research Compliance Specialist (Post-Approval Audits)
IRB WORKLOAD METRICS

New Protocols Submitted for IRB Review

New Protocols By Year

New QI Projects Registered

New Quality Improvement Projects Submitted to QI Registry
Submissions by Type in 2023

11953 Submissions in 2023

New Protocols Approved from 2017 - 2023 by Review Category

Review Category

Number of New Protocols

NHSR – Not Human Subjects Research
IRB OPERATIONS METRICS

Time to Approval for Initial Reviews by Review Category

Time to Approval in Days - By Review Procedure

- Reciprocity
- Exempt
- Expedited
- Full Board
Turnaround Time for New Protocols Approved by Full Board

Duration 1: From IRB receipt of application to IRB return to PI for corrections
Duration 2: From IRB returns to PI for correction to PI response
Duration 3: From PI response to IRB Meeting date
Duration 4: From IRB Meeting date to IRB Stipulations to PI
Duration 5: From IRB Stipulations to PI response
Duration 6: From PI response to IRB outcome letter

IRB Approval - Turn Around Time by Process Steps

Median Days

- IRB Time Duration 1
- PI Time Duration 2
- IRB Time Duration 3
- IRB Time Duration 4
- PI Time Duration 5
- IRB Time Duration 6

Federal (19) - Red
Other (70) - Green
Industry (15) - Purple
All (104)
A link to a feedback survey is sent with IRB outcome letters. Between January 2023 and December 2023, there were 113 responses.