

## WHAT IS AN IRB?

Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) are responsible for protecting the safety, rights, and welfare of participants in human research.

The IRB consists of a diverse group of members with varying backgrounds to promote complete and adequate review of research activities.

The IRB must have a nonscientist member present when reviewing proposed research at a meeting to ensure there is appropriate representation for those who do not have specialized knowledge in the subject matter. The member's training, background, and occupation should be primarily nonscientific.



Accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs demonstrates UK's commitment to the highest ethical standards in conducting human research.

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*An Equal Opportunity University*



## We Want YOU

as a nonscientist  
member for the  
University of Kentucky  
Institutional Review  
Board!



## What do I need to know?

Bring an interest in the ethical conduct of research and we'll teach you the rest!

Members can be a part of the regular IRB or may serve as an alternate. All members are appointed for a 3-year term with the option for renewal, and may resign at any time.

Learn more about IRB membership at:

[www.research.uky.edu/office-research-integrity/institutional-review-board-irb-membership](http://www.research.uky.edu/office-research-integrity/institutional-review-board-irb-membership)

For more information or to volunteer, contact Pam Stafford at [pastaf3@uky.edu](mailto:pastaf3@uky.edu)

## The Nonscientist Member's Role

Federal regulations state that IRBs must be diverse and must include three kinds of members: scientists, nonscientists, and people not affiliated with the institution. The nonscientist is **vital** – research review cannot proceed without a nonscientist present.

This member's role is to ensure that research materials are readable and that participants will understand what they are volunteering for.

This committee member must be:

- A nonscientist (training, background, and occupation are in nonscientific fields)
- Able to prepare for and attend most committee meetings; meetings are set for a particular weekday and are held about 3-4 weeks apart
- Able to attend occasional education sessions
- Comfortable with basic computer operations

## You Can Facilitate High Ethical Standards in Research

The IRB is charged with reviewing all research projects that involve humans at the University of Kentucky, including everything from surveys to clinical trials.

The board collectively reviews research for compliance with research regulations and application of high ethical standards.

The IRB provides ongoing oversight and support of research teams to promote high quality research and practices that safeguard study participants.

