

HUA INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

The Harvard University Area (HUA) IRB aims to promote a culture of compliance and to establish across the University the highest expectations for performance and oversight of research involving human subjects. The IRB is committed to the education of the Harvard research community and outreach to collaborating institutions.

The mission of the IRB is to assure that all participants are protected from any unnecessary risk when enrolled in a research study, that they can make an informed decision to participate, and when possible, that participant and/or society at large benefits from the knowledge gained from the research study. The goal of the IRB is to assist investigators in developing appropriate research protocols in accordance with federal and University policies, and within accepted ethical guidelines.

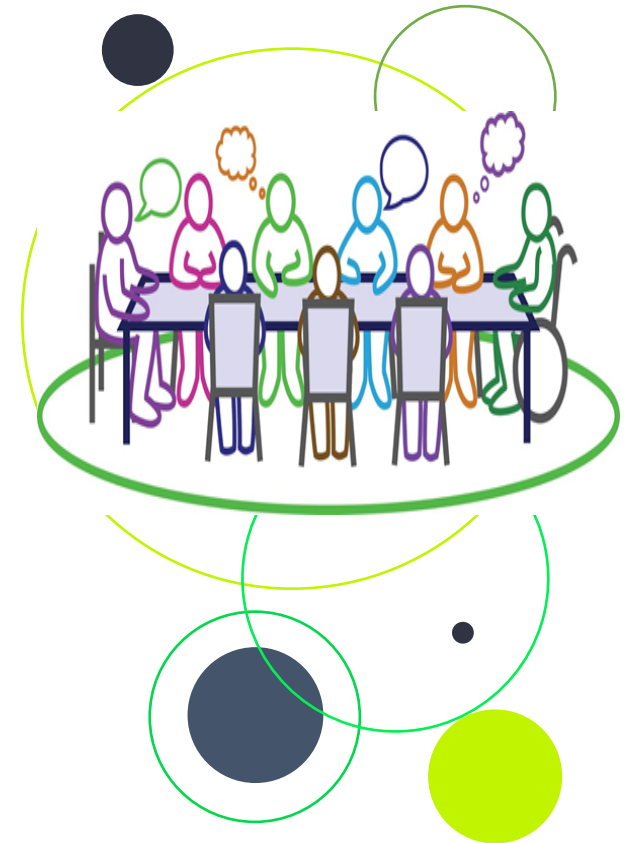
THE IRB IS GUIDED BY THE
ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF
RESPECT FOR PERSONS,
BENEFICENCE, AND JUSTICE

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<https://cuhs.harvard.edu>

*We thank the University of Iowa IRB for the concept
and text for this brochure.*

**Interested in
becoming a
Harvard University
IRB Member?**

Find out how!



WHAT DO IRB MEMBERS DO?

IRB members have a front-row seat to see the wide variety of research conducted at Harvard University. IRB members review proposals for Social and Behavioral research studies from all departments in the Harvard University Area which includes the Cambridge and Allston campuses.

The HUA IRB office seeks a balanced board made up not only of Harvard faculty and staff, but members of the surrounding community including people with scientific and non-scientific backgrounds.

IRB members review research proposals in an electronic application system called ESTR. The board discussion is focused on making sure the study design and procedures meet a set of regulatory criteria required for IRB approval. In brief, those are:

- Research design is sound and study hypothesis is reasonable.
- Risks to subjects are minimized.
- Risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits.
- Selection of subjects is equitable.
- Informed consent is obtained or appropriately waived from all prospective subjects and documented.
- The research protocol includes a plan for data and safety monitoring.
- Subject's privacy and confidentiality are protected.
- Appropriate additional safeguards are included for vulnerable subjects.

TO BECOME AN IRB MEMBER

- Should have interest and general aptitude for reviewing research proposals prior to each meeting
- Must complete IRB member training
- Must have the ability to attend IRB meetings (once a month)
- Make a minimum of a one-year commitment to serving on the board.
- The time commitment is approximately 4-8 hours per month. Meetings last 1-2 hours and the 5-8 members attending each meeting must review study materials in advance to prepare for the discussion.

If this sounds like something that may be of interest, send an email to cuhs@harvard.edu with the following information:

- Your Name
- Contact Information
- Attach brief resume outlining your experience

Place the text "IRB Member" in the email subject line.

WHAT IS THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY AREA?

The Harvard University Area includes the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard Business School, Harvard Law School, Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard University Health Services, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

The IRB of record for the Harvard University Area is referred to as the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects (CUHS).

MISSION OF THE HARVARD UNIVERSITY AREA IRB

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