

HRPP and IRB Statement of Commitment

This statement affirms the commitment of the [Organization's] Human Research Participant Programs (HRPP) and its Institutional Review Board (IRB) to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice through maintaining the highest ethical standards in the conduct of human participant research. Diversity includes age, race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, language, disability, religion, socio-economic status, and other characteristics that distinguish people from one another. Consistent with the principle of justice, the inclusion of underrepresented and understudied individuals is within the purview of IRB responsibility, as it is with other clinical research stakeholders.

The mission and purpose of an IRB is to safeguard the rights and welfare of human participants in research, to both include and protect those whose conditions are the focus of study. IRBs are responsible for the evaluation and approval of all human participant research and should ensure that any exclusion from participation is justified and based on scientific, ethical, or safety concerns.

As an IRB, we recognize our responsibility to address ethical and regulatory concerns regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion in research and to support researchers and institutional efforts that are foundational to achieving these goals. We are committed to evaluating all IRB applications, including eligibility criteria, recruitment materials, consent documents and processes, and other study documents for inclusive and equitable opportunities for potential participants. As the entity that holds investigators and research personnel accountable, we, as IRB professionals and members, are also accountable: IRB representation and membership will strive to sustain a composition that is reflective of the population we serve and protect.

As part of the research community, we recognize that each member of the human research protection program, the IRB, institutional offices that support human subjects research, researchers and their study teams, research participants, and the community we serve all play an integral role in advancing research that is representative of our communities; we endeavor to reduce disparities and promote social justice. We are committed to this work.