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

The IRB is comprised of diverse members with varying backgrounds to promote complete and adequate review of research activities.

In order to review proposed research, the IRB meeting must include someone who is not associated with UK and does not have a background in medicine or science in order to represent the lay community.

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.

Office of Research Integrity

403 Kinkead Hall
University of Kentucky
Main Line: 859-257-9428
www.research.uky.edu/ori

An Equal Opportunity University
The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) is responsible for recruiting interested and committed individuals to serve on the IRB as regular or alternate members. All members are appointed for a three-year term.

To learn more about IRB Membership read: "The Nuts & Bolts of Being an IRB Member"
www.research.uky.edu/ori/human/IRBMembership.html#NutsBolts

For more information or to submit your name as a potential volunteer, email Pam Stafford at pastaf3@uky.edu

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**Community Member's Role**

The community member provides a unique perspective that is not biased by employment or ties to the University.

They are non-scientists who represent the values of the public, populations, local community, and society.

For instance, in reviewing research proposals, the Community member may have input on the suitability of participant recruitment or readability of consent forms.

The committee member on the IRB must be:

- unaffiliated with the University of Kentucky;
- a non-scientist;
- able to prepare for and attend most committee meetings (scheduled same weekday, every 3 weeks);
- able to attend occasional education sessions; and
- capable of performing basic computer operations.

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**Facilitating 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 survey research to clinical trials.

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

They provide ongoing oversight and support of research teams to promote high quality research and practices that protect and safeguard study participants.