

# What do you need to know about the IRB?

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# Institutional Review Board = Committee Chair – Reviews every complete application

What does IRB do?

- a) Screen all research on campus
- b) Approve all funded human subjects research
- c) Ensure that all human subjects research on campus has undergone peer ethical review

# Institutional Review Board

What does IRB do?

- a) ~~Screen all research on campus~~
- b) ~~Approve~~ Review all funded human subjects research
- c) Ensure that all human subjects research (HSR) on campus has undergone peer ethical review

**As IRB Chair, my goal is to get to “yes”**

# What kind of HSR?

**Human Subjects Research** is defined by OHRP (feds) as

- a) Systematic, planned interventions or interactions
- b) Meets standards of discipline and university
- c) Intended for dissemination beyond the unit  
(contributes to knowledge base) AND
- d) Involves humans or
- e) Uses data or tissue from living humans

# What does IRB approval look like?

Approvals come in 3 flavors:

- a) **Exempt.** Your study was approved by IRB Chair or designee as a low-risk study with limited conditions and requirements.
- b) **Expedited.** Your study was approved by the IRB Chair as having mitigated risks, with limited conditions and reporting requirements.
- c) **Full board.** The IRB met and a quorum approved your study, with a range of conditions and requirements.

# Who doesn't need to know about IRB?

Excluded research:

- a) Journalism
- b) Focused interviews such as historians do about specific events
- c) Research which is internal only, never to be distributed, presented, published, or shared off campus

**Fun fact: Only the IRB decides what is “exempt”**

# Is this human subjects research?

- a) My department has both online and onsite programs. We are going to compare the grades and success of students to see if one group performs better. We have not decided how to use those results.
- b) I am going to give two versions of a test to students, and see if the format of the test affects student performance. I am going to present at ASEE.

# Is this human subjects research? YES!

- a) My department has both online and onsite programs. We are going to compare the grades and success of students to see if one group performs better. **We have not decided how to use results. ← GET IRB APPROVAL**
- b) We wrote two versions of a test to students, to see if the format of the test affects student performance. We will present at ASEE.

# Is this human subjects research?

- a) In my next federal grant, my broader impacts include a small research study about whether K-12 students are more engaged with STEM after watching our video.
- b) I'm going to track progress of REU or IGERT students to determine what factors appear to influence their career choices.

# Is this human subjects research? YES!

- a) In my next federal grant, my broader impacts include a small research study about whether K-12 students are more engaged with STEM after watching our video.
- b) I'm going to track progress of REU or IGERT students to determine what factors appear to influence their career choices.

# Human Subjects Research in the Classroom?

Which of the following is HSR?

- a) I noticed that my students had a difficult time on a problem, so I am going to talk about that at my next conference
- b) Graduate students reported to advisor that students all failed the most recent lab (or test)
- c) I'm going to write a book about how people should teach in my field

# Human Subjects Research in the Classroom?

Which of the following is HSR? **POSSIBLY NONE**

- a) ~~I noticed that my students had a difficult time on a problem, so I am going to talk about that at my next conference~~ **(not research unless you systematically collect and use data)**
- b) ~~GTA reported to advisor that students all failed the most recent lab~~ **(Internal evaluation isn't research)**
- c) **I'm going to write a book about how people should teach in my field (maybe, depending on data)**

## True or False?

- a) IRB processes aren't important to graduate students because the advisor will understand IRB
- b) All faculty who supervise graduate research are required to know about IRB
- c) Graduate students can submit the IRB application directly to the IRB

# True or False?

- a) ~~IRB processes aren't important to graduate students because advisors understand IRB~~ **FALSE**
- b) ~~All faculty who supervise graduate research are required to know about IRB~~ **FALSE**
- c) ~~Graduate students can submit the IRB application directly to the IRB~~ **FALSE**

Students may do human subjects research; faculty must supervise it, and not all S&T faculty are familiar with regulations.

# What kinds of research get denied?

IRB will not approve any research that fails to meet all federal standards for HSR ethics:

- a) Deception research of children without parental consent
- b) Research in which the risks to participants are not going to be explained to them in advance
- c) Research that only benefits or serves the researcher, not the participants, the discipline, or society

*If IRB does not approve, the I/O cannot approve. If IRB approves, I/O can deny.*

# Why do we need an IRB?

- a) Historic abuses of humans during research
- b) Continual abuses of power by researchers (very limited, but perceived as avoidable)
- c) Lack of international ethical standards for HSR
- d) Inherent risk in most research involving humans
- e) Federal funding agencies require IRB review of HSR
- f) Unfunded studies are not inherently less risky to humans than funded studies

## What do you need to know about the IRB?

- Find forms, instructions, and info at [IRB.mst.edu](http://IRB.mst.edu)
- You can survey, observe, and/or interview humans and use their data for research
- HSR can generate more publications from research you are already doing (BI)
- IRB oversight is federally mandated, but it's not going to slow you down or stop you from doing research
- Because of historical human rights abuses, HSR requires that researchers complete training, file a protocol, and sometimes make changes to reduce risk of harm to the participants
- IRB is complicated! Seek advice from experts.