



Institutional Review Board

IRB COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The East Tennessee State University Institutional Review Boards (IRB) are committees established to protect the rights and welfare of individuals recruited to participate in research activities under the supervision of the University or its affiliates: James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Ballad Health. The Human Research Protection Program provides administrative support for the IRBs. At ETSU, we have 2 committees that each meet monthly to review research applications to ensure compliance with human subject regulations, risks to subjects are minimized, and the highest ethical standards are upheld.

Federal regulations require each IRB to have at least 5 members, one of which must be a non-scientist and at least one is non-affiliated. One person can fulfill both roles on the IRB, and that member is usually referred to as the Community Member. A Community Member contributes to the board as a voice of the participant and community during the review of research studies. This role requires the person to be independent of the research, the institution, and initially unfamiliar with the culture of the IRB. Community Members are uniquely positioned to put the subjects first, unhampered by personal ambition, scientific bias, interdepartmental rivalry, or the profit motive.

- Have an interest in medical or social science research?
- Interested in contributing to scientific research in your community?
- Do you have reliable internet and transportation to participate in meetings?
- Are you proficient using a computer to review electronic proposal documents?
- **Interested in becoming a Community Member? Contact us at 423-439-6054.**

IRB members play an essential role in the review process and bring diverse backgrounds to the review. If you are interested in contributing to ETSU's research community, this volunteer opportunity may be for you. Community Members may not have a current affiliation with ETSU or the VA medical center (unless as a patient). They also must not have an immediate family member affiliated with either institution.

To become an IRB member, we ask:

- Members make a minimum of a 3-year commitment to serve on the board
- Members attend monthly meetings that last up to 2 hours in addition to preparation ahead of time to review research application materials electronically
- Members to complete education and training related to human research requirements
- Members to actively participate in board meeting review discussion

For more information, contact the IRB Director at 423-439-6054. Also visit the ETSU website (www.etsu.edu/irb) for more information.