INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW POLICY AND PROCEDURE

1. PURPOSE: This policy establishes the process and procedures for institutional review for human subject research engaging UT Health San Antonio (also known as The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio).

2. POLICY:
   A. An institutional activation letter is required from UT Health San Antonio prior to conducting research activities when UT Health San Antonio is engaged in human subjects research whether the research is under a local IRB review or external IRB review. A record is created and maintained for all submissions to UT Health San Antonio regardless of whether the research is under local IRB review or external IRB review (see Recordkeeping Policy and Procedure).
   
   B. All personnel changes must be reviewed and accepted by OCR for appropriate credentialing, experience and training as described in 4.A.(2).a.-c. below. Changes to affiliate personnel are routed through the affiliate research office(s) prior to approval (see Coordination Policy and Procedure).
   
   C. All changes affecting any institutional requirements for external IRB studies must be reviewed and accepted by OCR using the Modification Request Form as applicable (see Modifications and Amendments Policy and Procedure).
   
   D. The Office of Clinical Research (OCR) does not review non-human, non-regulated research, HUD/HDEs or emergency use submissions.

3. RESPONSIBILITY:
   A. Principal Investigator (PI) – Ensures research is not conducted prior to receiving institutional approval from OCR.
   
   B. Office of Clinical Research (OCR) – Reviews research projects that involve human subjects for institutional requirements and coordination with appropriate departments and affiliates.

4. PROCEDURES:
   A. The OCR reviews the institutional research application form and supporting documents for all initial research projects submitted to Research Regulatory Programs that involve human subjects for institutional requirements in coordination with appropriate departments and affiliate institutions consistent with the Receiving, Routing, and Administrative Review of UTHSCSA IRB Submissions Policy and Procedure.

      (1) Coordination with appropriate departments and affiliate institutions:
a. Affiliate institutions (e.g. UHS, VA) and/or Clinical Research Units (i.e. FORU, BRU) are notified of research projects when their resources are being utilized.

b. The Clinical Trials Office (CTO) is notified of research projects identified with a possible billing risk or participant payments.

c. If UT Health San Antonio is **not engaged** in human subjects research, institutional activation is not required. The OCR review is complete after all coordination activities with appropriate departments and affiliate institutions are finalized.

(2) **Initial review of institutional requirements:**

a. The OCR relies on UT medicine and department processes to ensure appropriate credentialing for licensed UT Health San Antonio personnel. Licensed Practitioner’s, with a medical or other advanced degree, are verified by the UT medicine credentialing staff. Verification of credentials for nurses providing clinical care in a research setting are verified by the appropriate department.

b. The OCR staff review all UT Health San Antonio personnel listed on the Research Application, Inst M or B-2 form (or similar) and ensure that each individual has appropriate experience and training consistent with the roles/duties approved by the IRB and the Research Scope of Practice (RScOP), if required. Further details regarding training and RScOP requirements are listed on the OCR website: [http://research.uthscsa.edu/ocr/training.shtml](http://research.uthscsa.edu/ocr/training.shtml).

c. The OCR staff ensure all research personnel engaged in research at UT Health San Antonio complete appropriate education in human subjects training [see Research Ethics Education Policy and Procedure].

d. The OCR staff review personnel for appropriate credentialing, experience and training as described in 4.A.(2)a.-c. above. If personnel have not met all requirements at the time of a new submission, they will be removed from the study and added at a later date when requirements have been met. If the principal investigator or individual assigned to a specialized role have not met all requirements, institutional activation will not be granted until completed.

e. The OCR staff ensures appropriate documentation from all institutional committees [i.e. the Radiation Safety Committee, Radioactive Drug Research Committee, Institutional Biosafety Committee, Mays Cancer Center Protocol Review Committee (PRC), or Texas Dept. of Family and Protective Services], as applicable (see [Coordination with other Committees or Offices Policy and Procedure](#)).
f. The OCR staff ensures that research projects with drug or device storage outside a hospital, commercial or Investigational Drug Section of the Mays Cancer Center have an OCR approved storage location (see Storage and Control of Investigational Drugs and Devices for Clinical Research Policy).

g. The OCR staff identifies clinical trials under review which are subject to federal rules requiring registration and NCT ID numbers in clinicaltrials.gov. OCR staff additionally assists and assures compliance and ongoing maintenance of registrations, to include results reporting, where applicable (see ClinicalTrials.gov Policy).

h. The OCR staff identifies new research where the PI is acting as a sponsor-investigator in an FDA regulated study and works with the PI to ensure all applicable FDA requirements (record keeping, monitoring, storage, accountability, etc.) are met for investigators who hold an IND and/or IDE (see Sponsor Investigator Policy).

i. For studies in which UT Health San Antonio relies on another IRB through an existing or new IRB reliance agreement (see Cooperative Research Policy and Procedure), OCR staff provide pre-submission consultation for the relying investigator and/or their research staff ensuring that the relying investigator understands his/her responsibilities. OCR staff review the research protocol and informed consent document for local regulatory issues and state or local laws that must be addressed. When protocols present conflict with state or local laws, OCR staff will comply with those laws or coordinate with Compliance, Legal, or other authorities for counsel and resolution, where possible. Institutional and protocol specific information is provided to the IRB on the Single IRB Protocol Specific Form or UT Health San Antonio Institutional Profile form (or similar). An IRB approved communication plan will be obtained for investigator initiated multisite studies and any other applicable studies, where applicable.

j. The OCR staff ensures that fully executed agreements (e.g. CTA, DUA) have been processed through the Office of Sponsored Programs. Verification of a clinical trial agreement (CTA) for clinical trials with a billing risk are verified by the Clinical Trials Office.

B. The OCR can approve institutional activation of a research project when all institutional requirements have been met (see paragraph 4.A.(2)), IRB approval has been received, and CTO has cleared the project.
C. Investigators may not initiate any changes in study personnel without prior OCR review and approval (see Modifications and Amendments Policy). When reviewing requests for changes in personnel, OCR reviews the change of personnel in conjunction with the IRB through the IRB amendment process if the roles/duties are modified or the change in personnel affect any of the IRB documents (e.g. informed consent document).

D. Institutional noncompliance with the regulations or policies applicable to human research for external IRB studies are processed on the prompt report form according to the Noncompliance Policy and Procedure.

E. Investigators may not initiate any institutional changes for external IRB studies without prior OCR review and approval (see Modifications and Amendments Policy).

F. An unanticipated problem, a determination of serious or continuing non-compliance, or a suspension or termination reported by a lead IRB for an external IRB study is reviewed by the IRB/OCR Director or designee to determine if further action is required according to local IRB policy and procedures.

G. A UT Health San Antonio IRB study receives institutional inactivation consistent with IRB inactivation (see Study Inactivation Policy and Procedure). An institutional inactivation form including documentation from an external IRB indicating the study or site (as applicable) has been inactivated is required for inactivation of an external IRB study.