

FORMING A LOCAL SRC/IRB COMMITTEE

WHEN MUST STUDENT RESEARCH BE LOCALLY REVIEWED?

ALWAYS! However, many research projects can often be reviewed by the adult sponsor or classroom teacher without the need for a local review panel. This should be done prior to the commencement of research. ***Make sure you know which projects require SRC/IRB review by being familiar with the ISEF Rules.*** An online copy of the rules is available at:

<http://www.sciserv.org/isef/document/index.asp>

WHEN MUST AN APPOINTED PANEL REVIEW STUDENT RESEARCH?

ANY RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS (INCLUDING SURVEYS), NON-HUMAN VERTEBRATE ANIMALS, POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS BIOLOGICAL AGENTS, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, RECOMBINANT DNA, AND HUMAN/ANIMAL TISSUE MUST BE REVIEWED BY A REVIEW PANEL PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF RESEARCH!

WHEN SHOULD A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEGIN TO ORGANIZE A REVIEW PANEL?

IMMEDIATELY! Each September or October, local school districts should **officially** appoint a panel to review and approve student research projects that require prior approval. A list of panel members and their credentials **must** be forwarded to the regional science fair office as soon as possible.

WHAT IS THIS REVIEW PANEL CALLED?

ACTUALLY, THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF REVIEW PANELS!

A general review panel, the **Scientific Review Committee (SRC)**, examines projects for the following:

1. evidence of library search
2. evidence of proper supervision
3. use of accepted research techniques
4. completed forms, signature, and dates
5. humane treatment of animals
6. compliance of rules and laws governing human and animal research
7. appropriate use of recombinant DNA, pathogenic organisms, controlled substances, human/animal tissue, and hazardous substances and devices

A second review panel, the **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** is a committee that, according to federal law, must evaluate the potential physical or psychological risk of research involving human subjects. All proposed human research must be reviewed and approved **prior** to experimentation! This includes the research plan as well as any questionnaires or surveys to be used in the project.

A local school or school district can combine both the SRC and IRB into ONE review panel as long as all prerequisites for both panels are met.

WHO MUST SERVE ON A LOCAL SRC/IRB PANEL?

IN ORDER TO COMBINE BOTH REVIEW PANELS, THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF FOUR PERSONS WHO SERVE ON THE LOCAL SRC/IRB.

1. a biomedical scientist (Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M., D.D.S., or D.O)
2. a science teacher (the teacher supervising the student may NOT serve on the panel)
3. a school administrator
4. **one** of the following: medical doctor, physician's assistant, registered nurse, psychiatrist, a licensed psychologist, or licensed social worker/counselor.

If the project involves human behavior, a psychologist, psychiatrist, or individual with human behavioral training **must** serve on the panel. If students are using non-human vertebrate animals, then a veterinarian or an individual with training in animal care **should** serve on the panel.

ALL Vertebrate Animal projects must be reviewed for prior approval by the Central NM Science & Engineering Research Challenge SRC/IRB/IACUC. Be sure students start these projects extra early to allow plenty of time for review before they do the actual experimentation.

ALL PROJECTS INVOLVING VERTEBRATE ANIMALS WITH WORK BEING DONE AT A REGISTERED RESEARCH INSTITUTION MUST BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THAT INSTITUTION'S IACUC PRIOR TO THE RESEARCH BEGINNING (see Form 5B).

Back-dating of any required paperwork will NOT be accepted for any reason. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disqualification from regional competition.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP? WHERE DO I START? HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

IF A SPONSOR/TEACHER NEEDS HELP FORMING A LOCAL SRC/IRB, you can call the Director of the Central NM Science & Engineering Research Challenge, Karen Kinsman at (505) 277-4916 or e-mail at kkinsman@unm.edu. You can also mail questions to:



The University of New Mexico

STEM Education Outreach Programs
Central NM Science & Engineering Research Challenge
MSC 06 3580
1 University of New Mexico - Oñate Hall, Room 131
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001