



PROMOTING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH EDUCATION IN NEW MEXICO!

Forming a Local **Scientific Review Committee (SRC)** or **Institutional Review Board (IRB)**

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 committee. This should be done prior to the commencement of research. ***Make sure you know which projects require SRC/IRB review by becoming familiar with the ISEF Rules.*** An online copy of the rules is available at:

<http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/document>

WHEN MUST AN APPROPRIATE APPOINTED COMMITTEE REVIEW STUDENT RESEARCH?

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

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

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

WHAT IS THIS REVIEW COMMITTEE CALLED?

ACTUALLY, THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF REVIEW COMMITTEES!

A general review committee, the **Scientific Review Committee (SRC)**, examines projects for the following according to Intel ISEF Rules:

- 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,
- 8) human/animal tissue, and hazardous substances and devices

A second review committee, 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 participants. 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 committee as long as all prerequisites for both committees are met.**

WHO MUST SERVE ON A LOCAL SRC/IRB/ACUC COMMITTEE?

IN ORDER TO COMBINE BOTH REVIEW COMMITTEES, 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) an educator (the teacher supervising the student may NOT serve on the committee)
- 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 committee. If students are using non-human vertebrate animals, then a veterinarian or an individual with training in animal care **must** serve on the committee. **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 competition.

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

IF YOU NEED HELP FORMING A LOCAL SRC/IRB, contact your Intel ISEF Affiliated Fair Director. You are also welcome to contact Karen Kinsman, Director/Sr. Program Manager of STEM Education Outreach Programs at the University of New Mexico (505) 277-4916 or kkinsman@unm.edu.

OTHER RESOURCE DOCUMENT LINKS

SRC/IRB Operational Guidelines from ISEF

<http://www.societyforscience.org/document.doc?id=38>

Human Subjects Risk Assessment Guide

<http://www.societyforscience.org/document.doc?id=40>

Biosafety Level 1 Lab Self-Assessment Checklist

<http://www.societyforscience.org/document.doc?id=330>

Biosafety Level 2 Lab Self-Assessment Checklist

<http://www.societyforscience.org/document.doc?id=25>

Checkpoints for SRC Review After Experimentation,
Before Competition

<http://www.societyforscience.org/page.aspx?pid=803>

Most Common Reasons for Projects to Fail to Qualify at ISEF

<http://www.societyforscience.org/page.aspx?pid=802>

Searchable Database of ISEF Project Abstracts

<https://apps.societyforscience.org/abstracts/>



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