The Georgia Regents University (GRU) Institutional Review Boards (IRB) follow the principles of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations and policies, the Belmont Report, the Nuremberg Code, and the Declaration of Helsinki with regard to human subjects' research. The institution recognizes that a review, independent of the investigator, is necessary to safeguard the rights, welfare and safety of human subjects involved in research protocols. The IRB review process was implemented at the institution in October 1967 under the direction of Dr. Harry Barron O’Rear.

GRU has an active federal wide assurance with DHHS and maintains three internal IRBs in compliance with state and federal regulations:

- Institutional Review Board A (Biomedical)
- Institutional Review Board B (Social/Behavioral and Educational)
- Institutional Review Board C (Oncology-focused)

The IRBs are responsible for review of research applications, before the research-related activities begin, to protect the rights and welfare of human subjects, and to ensure their safety. The internal IRBs also review protocols conducted at the Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center under a memorandum of understanding.

The IRBs function independently of any organizational or outside entities and officials. Decisions made by the IRBs may not be overruled. There is an appeals process for IRB determinations as outlined in the Policy: “IRB Operations”.

GRU may grant authority to the internal IRBs listed above to:

- Approve, require modifications to secure approval, and disapprove all human subjects’ research activities overseen and conducted at GRU, GR Medical Center, GR Medical Associates
- Suspend or terminate approval of human subjects research
- Observe, or have a third party, observe the consent process and the conduct of the research

All human subjects research conducted at GRU, GR Medical Center, and GR Medical Associates must be approved by an institutionally designated IRB before the research may begin. Any faculty member, student, or staff member who proposes to engage in research involving the use of human subjects must have the research reviewed and approved by the IRB before any research-related activities may begin.

Records of review decisions on the use of human subjects and of informed consent are developed and maintained by the GRU IRBs in compliance with state and federal regulations. The IRBs are administratively and financially supported by the GRU IRB Office and report to the Senior Vice President for Research.

**External IRBs**

GRU has agreements with the external IRBs listed below to allow IRB review of specific human subjects’ research. However, to maintain the highest standards of human research oversight, only a GRU-
approved external IRB may be utilized by a GRU investigator per the list below. The following external IRBs are available for use according to the criteria listed below:

- **Western Institutional Review Board (WIRB®)**
  - Externally-sponsored clinical trials, which have undergone FDA review
- **Chesapeake Research Review, Inc. (CRRI)**
  - Externally-sponsored clinical trials
- **National Cancer Institute Central IRB**
  - Cooperative Clinical Oncology Group Protocols
- **University of Georgia**
  - Review is based upon a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines IRB of record based on Principal Investigator primary appointment and location of the research.
- **Other GRU Approved IRB- requests reviewed on a case by case basis**