Collaborative and Biomedical Research Review

**Summary/Purpose:** IRB review authority and procedures for collaborative and biomedical research.

**Introduction**

This policy covers two situations, which often overlap. First, it sets policy for research collaborations, broadly defined as UM investigators conducting research at other research institutions, including subcontracting such work. Second, it covers IRB review of biomedical research, such as trials of FDA approved drugs and devices presenting more than minimal risk or drugs and devices not FDA approved. Because UM’s IRB is constituted to expertly review social/behavioral research and not biomedical research, biomedical research requires review by an alternative IRB that has that expertise.

**Policy**

- Social/behavioral research conducted by UM faculty/staff/students at another institution will be subject to review by UM’s IRB. Once approved by UM’s IRB, prior to conducting the research at other institutions, investigators must ask the local institution's IRB if it wishes to review the research (template letter can be found [here](#)) and must provide written evidence (e.g., email correspondence) to the UM IRB of either local IRB approval or that the local IRB declined review.*

- The review of biomedical research 1) that is conducted by UM researchers at UM, 2) that is conducted by UM researchers at a collaborating research institution, or 3) that is subcontracted from UM will either be reviewed by University of Mississippi Medical Center’s (UMMC) IRB or deferred to the collaborating or subcontracted institution’s biomedical IRB. The latter will require an authorization agreement between the chief research officers of both institutions and modification to UM’s Federalwide Assurance with the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Human Research Protections.

A collaborating institution’s IRB will:

- Provide copies to UM’s IRB on any
  1. reports of 1) adverse events or 2) unanticipated problems involving risks to participants or others
  2. progress/renewal reports
  3. other correspondence related to the approved research.

UM’s IRB reserves the right to conduct a site visit of the research (after obtaining approval from the collaborating institution’s IRB and any other authority required).

*See policy on Research in Schools and Organizations Having No IRB for institutions with no IRB.*