



Office for the Protection of Human Research Subjects

August 2021

## AAHRPP Re-Accreditation Process Underway

The ETSU Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) exists to promote high quality, ethical research. The ETSU HRPP is an institutional-wide program coordinated by the Office for the Protection of Human Research Subjects and composed of research review committees (i.e., IRBs) and other entities responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of participants (i.e., ORSPA, HIPAA Compliance Office) in research conducted at ETSU. The HRPP has been accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) since 2005. **The HRPP is currently working towards re-accreditation with a remote site visit to occur on August 31-September 1, 2021.**

During the site visit, AAHRPP site visitors from accredited, peer institutions will review HRPP and IRB records and conduct remote interviews with members of the research community. **If your study is selected for review by AAHRPP, you will see that the site visitors have been temporarily added to your study staff contacts in IRBManager in order to review the IRB-approved protocol materials.** Researchers and research staff will also be selected by AAHRPP to interview during the site visit, and if you are selected, we will work with you on preparing for and setting up the interview, which will likely occur via Zoom for approximately 30 minutes.

ETSU is the only public university in Tennessee that is AAHRPP accredited. AAHRPP accreditation indicates that our organization follows rigorous standards for ethics, quality, and protections for human research, and it places ETSU among the world's most respected, trustworthy research organizations.

## Welcome Back Bucs!

The IRB and HRPP want to welcome you all back to campus for the Fall 2021 semester. Our staff, Chairs, and members are looking forward to an exciting academic year. The IRB and research support services are available to all ETSU employees and students. Do not hesitate to reach out to our team if you have research-related questions or needs.

423-439-6053 | [IRB@etsu.edu](mailto:IRB@etsu.edu) | [www.etsu.edu/irb](http://www.etsu.edu/irb)

## Research with Ballad Health

We are happy to announce that ETSU and Ballad Health have an agreement in place to allow eligible collaborative research to be reviewed by either IRB depending on the Principal Investigator's primary affiliation. The agreement will allow research conducted collaboratively between ETSU and Ballad investigators to avoid dual IRB review by both institutions. The Principal Investigator is expected to submit to the IRB of the institution where they are primarily affiliated. For example, if the PI is an ETSU faculty member, the study should be submitted to ETSU IRB, and BH IRB would cede review. The Lead PI should contact the IRB office(s) to discuss the appropriate IRB prior to submission if unsure. Note: Each institution retains the right to require separate IRB review if deemed appropriate.

ETSU faculty, staff, students, and residents performing research activities involving human participants approved by a non-ETSU IRB must submit the Request to Rely xform in IRBManager as described in our guidance document [here](#). **Research under an external IRB, including Ballad Health IRB, may not begin until ETSU has issued an External IRB Registration Letter.**



EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY