

# Office of Research Integrity and Oversight

The Research Integrity and Oversight (RIO) Office supports the UH research community in all aspects of regulatory review and Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), including the ethical treatment of human and animal subjects, and the assessment of conflicts of interest, allegations of research misconduct and noncompliance, and the congruency of research awards.

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FWA: **00005994**  
Animal Assurance: **A3136-01**  
USDA Registration: **74-R-0020**  
AAALAC Unit: **#000669**

**Training**  
Compliance training is offered through the CITI Program at [citiprogram.org](http://citiprogram.org). Use your @uh.edu email to register.

**ICON**  
Protocols are managed in the Integrated Compliance Oversight Network (ICON) at [icon.research.uh.edu](http://icon.research.uh.edu).

## Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)

The Division of Research houses the Institutional Review Board (IRB) charged with overseeing human subject research across the University. The IRB is responsible for safeguarding the rights and welfare of all persons participating in human subject research in accordance with federal regulations and ethical principles.

All human subjects research must receive IRB approval prior to commencing any research activities including recruitment.

[cpbs@central.uh.edu](mailto:cpbs@central.uh.edu)

## Research Congruency Review

All funded projects involving animals, human subjects, or bio/radioactive materials are reviewed for alignment with committee protocols (IRB, IACUC, IBC). Approvals and congruency verification must be secured before research funds can be released. Non-monetary agreements like Data Use Agreements and Material Transfer Agreements also undergo a congruency review.

[grc@central.uh.edu](mailto:grc@central.uh.edu)

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

All uses of vertebrate animals in research or teaching require the written approval of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The IACUC is responsible for making certain that animal research at UH conforms to federal, state, and local regulations and institutional policies. The committee reviews animal research protocols, reviews the animal care and use program, and inspects the animal facilities to ensure compliance with standards and regulatory requirements.

[iacuc@central.uh.edu](mailto:iacuc@central.uh.edu)

## Conflict of Interest in Research

Financial conflicts of interest in research occur when the financial interests of Investigators (or those of their spouses/domestic partners and dependent children) could affect or appear to affect the design, conduct or reporting of the research.

All investigators are required to disclose any significant financial interests related to their institutional responsibilities and complete a Conflict of Interest Certification at least annually.

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## Responsible Conduct of Research and Research Misconduct

The University of Houston continually strives to maintain a research environment that promotes attention to the highest ethical standards for all research. RIO provides guidance and training on multiple RCR topics and reviews adherence to RCR plans for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) research projects.

Our office also oversees the review and investigation of allegations of research misconduct per federal and university requirements.

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