I. PURPOSE & INTENT

The University of South Florida System (USF System) requires from faculty, staff, and students the responsible conduct of research and the ethical treatment of human subjects in research. The USF System has a systematic and comprehensive Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) that is designed to protect the rights, safety, and welfare of human subjects who participate in the research programs of the USF System and its affiliated institutions. The program is based on the ethical principles outlined in the Nuremberg Code, the Declaration of Helsinki, and the Belmont Report.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The HRPP includes the USF System Institutional Review Boards (IRB) and other duly constituted, relied-upon IRBs as set forth in the USF System Federalwide Assurance. All research involving human subjects must receive IRB review and approval prior to initiation and must be conducted in accordance with the policies and procedures of the USF System, the Code of Federal Regulations governing the use of humans in research, and the applicable regulations set forth by the International Conference on Harmonisation. Related policies and procedures are available on the USF Research & Innovation and Research Integrity & Compliance website: [http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/policies-procedures.asp](http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/policies-procedures.asp).

The President has delegated authority and responsibility of the HRPP to the Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Development. The Senior Vice President serves as the Institutional Official for the USF System Federalwide Assurance and is responsible for oversight and the compliant operation of the HRPP.
The IRBs are granted authority through federal regulations to review research proposals and take any of the following actions:

- Approve.
- Require modification to secure approval.
- Disapprove.
- Suspend or terminate approval.
- Observe or have a third party observe consent processes or the conduct of research.
- Conduct Quality Assurance evaluations and for-cause audits of on-going and closed research studies involving human subjects.

Research covered by this policy that has been approved by a USF System IRB may be subject to further appropriate review and approval or disapproval by officials of the University. However, these officials may not approve the research if it has not been approved by an IRB.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The USF System Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Development:

- Serves as Institutional Official and is ultimately responsible for oversight and the compliant operations of the HRPP.
- Maintains open and direct channels of communication with IRB members and staff, investigators and research staff, and administration to address questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the HRPP.
- Provides the IRB with sufficient meeting space, staff, and budgetary resources to support review and record keeping responsibilities. A program report drafted by the Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance is reviewed annually to ensure adequate resources are available to support required activities.
- Notifies the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of serious or continuing noncompliance with IRB policies or regulations and suspensions or terminations of IRB approval.
- Protects IRBs from undue influence or threat of retaliatory actions so that IRBs can function independently, basing decisions on ethical principles, regulations, and institutional policies. IRB members and staff shall report any instances of undue influence to the Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance. The
Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance will investigate the matter and report findings and recommendations for resolution to the Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Development.

- Approves recommendations and appoints IRB members, alternates, ex-officios, and consultants.
- Evaluates all IRB members, chairpersons, staff, board composition, and number annually to ensure adequate resources, program continuity, and scientific and professional expertise of members relevant to the business conducted. The Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance will prepare the annual report to present to the Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Development.

B. The Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance:

- Serves as the overall administrator for the HRPP and is responsible for ensuring that the IRBs function and operate in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations that govern the protection of human subjects in the conduct of research.
- Notifies the Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Development and as applicable, other administrative and affiliated officials of any injury, breach of trust, unanticipated problems involving risks to subjects or others, serious or continuing non-compliance with requirements by research investigators, or suspension of IRB approval.
- Investigates all issues of undue influence or threats of retaliation directed to the IRB members and staff and provides recommendations for resolution to the Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Development.
- Presents an annual report to the Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Development regarding the status of the HRPP programs that includes review of resources, continuity of IRB operations, and adequacy of scientific and professional expertise available to carry out requirements of the HRPP.
- Delegates operational authority to the USF System IRB Manager as appropriate.

*Current Responsible Office: Research & Innovation

*Refer to the appropriate Responsible Office website for a current name of the Vice President or other Responsible Officer.
History: New 12-6-89, Amended 2-3-15 (technical), 8-24-16 (technical).