

## Human Subjects Research Committee

23.02.16

To the faculty of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev,

### Updates from the Human Subject Research Committee

The Human Subject Research (HSR) committee, in coordination with Professor Dan Blumberg, Vice President and Dean of Research, implemented a standard review system to monitor and approve all research that involves human subjects. This review criteria meets current international standards and protects the rights, privacy, and welfare of human subjects while recognizing the importance of expediting the process for ethical approval of research programs.

In view of recent discussion on the differences of the Helsinki Committee and the HSR University committee, we wish to emphasize the conditions under which the HSR Committee issues approvals.

Approval from the Helsinki Committee is needed in **all medical and clinical research**, and research **requiring physical exertion**. Approval from the HSR Committee is needed for **all non-clinical, and non-physical** research involving humans, i.e., research involving questionnaires, interviews, perceptions, memories, reactions, etc.

The HSR University Ethics Committee does not review research that bears physical risk of any type. Such research programs must acquire approval from the Helsinki Committee. Included in this is research involving acquiring patient data of any sort, e.g., questioning hospitalized patients.

Research that requires HSR approval includes funded and non-funded research, collections of pilot data, pre-tests of experimental procedures and tools, educational research, student research projects such as M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations, and all other research endeavors. The exceptions are student projects conducted in the context of seminar classes and can be approved by the faculty member in charge, and projects that meet the requirements for expedited review. Class projects that meet *both* criteria can be approved by the faculty member in charge of the seminar.

The HSR committee consists of Departmental Ethics Committees, and the University Ethics Committee.

All research that is eligible for **expedited review** can be submitted to the respective **Departmental Ethics Committee** for approval. Research may be considered for expedited review if it involves no more than minimal risk, does not include intentional deception, does not include vulnerable populations, does not address sensitive topics, and includes appropriate consent procedures. **Minimal risk** means that the probability and magnitude of psychological harm or discomfort anticipated in the research is not greater than those encountered in daily life and routine behavior and includes financial risk, employment risk, criminal/civil liability, stigmatization, insurability, emotional distress, embarrassment, and more. **Sensitive populations** include, but are not limited to, children, prisoners, etc. **Sensitive topics** include, but are not limited to, questions about clinical symptoms, sexuality, etc.

**All research proposals that are funded or not eligible for expedited review must be reviewed by the University Ethics committee.**

Submission for approval from the Committee must be done via our website [here](#).

Finally, all the correspondence with the University Ethics Committee (including objections, comments and suggestions regarding a decision of the University Ethics Committee) must be submitted in writing to Reesa Stone ([hsrcommittee@bgu.ac.il](mailto:hsrcommittee@bgu.ac.il)), the administrative assistant of the committee.

Best regards, and wishes for ethical and fruitful research,



Prof. Yoella Bereby-Meyer  
Chair of the Ben-Gurion University Ethics Committee

cc. Prof. Dan Blumberg – **Vice-President & Dean for Research & Development**