

**Committee on Human Research
American Psychological Association**

Annual Report 2024
<https://www.apa.org/science/leadership/research>

The formal charge of the Committee is the following:

1. To facilitate the conduct of and training in scientifically and ethically responsible research involving humans and establish and maintain cooperative relations with organizations sharing common interests.
2. To examine issues related to the ethics of and regulatory requirements for research involving humans and disseminate accurate information about such research.
3. To develop and disseminate guidelines for protecting the rights and welfare of humans involved in research and consult on the implementation of these guidelines.

During 2024, the Committee reviewed and discussed various initiatives it implemented as a reflection of its charge.

- Reviewed the results of a survey it conducted assessing members' understanding of the revised Common Rule (Common Rule 2018), which went into effect in January 2020. The CHR discussed and prepared a summary of the survey data, including respondent demographics, familiarity with training related to the revised Common Rule, and knowledge of specific aspects of the Rule. The report also highlighted respondents' awareness of adopted changes, such as those related to informed consent.
- Assisted with an educational piece published in the *APA Monitor* on IRB regulations (see <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2024/10/secure/research-approval-common-rule>). Background information and interviews were provided by Dr. Donald Forsyth, a member of the Committee.
- Discussed the process and criteria it will follow when reviewing and providing public comment on the draft revised *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*, which became available for public comment in December 2024. The members determined that their primary focus will be the Research Section and its standards. Other sections of interest may include those related to Informed Consent, and Education, Training, and Supervision.
- Began planning a webinar that will take place in Fall 2025 which will address the following topics: a) broader IRB issues, including the ethical considerations researchers must take into account when conducting a study; b) how IRBs are implemented across various institutions, such as those at larger versus smaller administrations; and c) how state legislation and institutional policies influence IRB implementation.
- Provided commentary on various issues to be considered by the APA Council of Representatives (e.g., AI, protection of neural data, advocacy issues for the APASI to consider), which may lead to additional initiatives for the CHR in the coming year.
- Considered and recommended nominees for its members that will begin serving from 2025-2027. It is noted that the CHR will include a graduate student on its Committee beginning in 2025.