

American Psychological Association Committee on Human Research
Annual Report 2025
<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.

The Committee reviewed and discussed various initiatives it implemented during 2025:

- A webinar titled “*The Revised Common Rule: Challenges and Opportunities for Psychological Researchers*” was held by the Committee on October 30. The session focused on:
 - a) evolving IRB practices; and b) challenges associated with implementing the revised Rule, including the ethical considerations researchers must address when conducting studies. The webinar also featured a panel discussion of two case studies, exploring how each case study should be reviewed under the revised Common Rule. The webinar was well attended, with the majority of registrants being educators and researchers; clinicians and graduate students were also represented.
- The Committee discussed several follow-up initiatives from its webinar —particularly those aimed at identifying and addressing knowledge gaps—based on the comments received. These initiatives will be considered by the Committee in 2026. Possible initiatives suggested for consideration, and which will require further clarification and discussion, may include the following:
 - Developing an FAQ or guidance document clarifying the applicability of the Revised Common Rule.
 - Creating a best-practice template for independent researchers and organizations without IRBs.
- The Committee also reviewed its governance self-study and identified challenges and recommendations for consideration. Committee members discussed the Committee’s strengths as well as its challenges—particularly the need for improved communication with additional APA boards and committees, and for increased clarity on how the CHR fits within the broader APA governance structure.
- The Committee provided public comment on the draft revised *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct*, which became available for a 90-day public comment period in 2025.
- The Board of Scientific Affairs offered one hour of programming for the Committee at the 2026 APA Convention, to be held in Washington, DC, August 6–8, 2026. The Committee discussed ideas for this session, and will continue its planning in 2026.
- The Committee considered and recommended nominees for membership for the 2026–2028 term. The nominees will represent: a) Behavioral Health Psychology, particularly those collaborating with hospitals and medical centers; and b) Cognitive Psychology, especially scientists engaged in laboratory research. In addition, the Committee elected a new Chair and Vice Chair, who will begin their terms in January 2026.