

### **III. Institutional Research Ethics Committee (IREC)**

#### **What is the Institutional Research Ethics Committee?**

The IREC is charged with reviewing research projects involving human subjects for compliance with institutional policies. The IREC will also assess whether the risks posed to research subjects are proportional to the benefits that may be derived.

The IREC is comprised of members from relevant academic disciplines. The membership includes faculty, staff, and members from the local community.

IREC members must have the necessary experience and expertise to evaluate proposed research projects.

The IREC functions as a surrogate “human subject advocate” whose role is to protect subjects participating in research by reviewing research projects before research is allowed to begin.

IREC functions and duties are described in the 1991 United States Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (Common Rule - Title [45 CFR 46](#)).

#### **What does the IREC do?**

The IREC is responsible for reviewing and approving proposed or continuing human subject research. The IREC review process is designed to protect the rights and welfare of human subjects by ensuring equitable subject selection, obtaining fully informed consent, minimizing risks, maximizing possible benefits, and assuring the maintenance of privacy and confidentiality of persons and their personal information (data). Human subject research projects cannot be conducted at Nazarbayev University without the approval of the IREC.

The IREC has the authority to approve, require changes to study procedures, or disapprove proposed research projects. Institutional officials can disapprove an IREC approved project but cannot approve a project that has been disapproved, suspended, or terminated by the IREC.