



Research Ethics Board

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP File #	REB.SOP.202
Title	Management of REB Membership
Effective Date	October 22, 2021
Next Review	2026
Next Administrative Review	2023

1. Purpose

This standard operating procedure (SOP) describes the management of the membership of the Research Ethics Board (REB).

2. Definitions

See the MSVU **REB Glossary of Terms (REB.INFO.001)**

3. Scope

This SOP pertains to REBs that review human participant research in compliance with applicable policies and guidelines.

4. Responsibilities

The REB Chair and REB Office Personnel are responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this SOP are met.

The REB Chair or designee is responsible for monitoring and managing the REB membership.

5. Procedures and/or Specific Policies

REB membership (e.g., appointment, terms) must be adequately managed to continue to meet composition requirements and to maintain the appropriate diversity, experience and expertise for the type and volume of research reviewed.

5.1. Appointments – Regular Members and Alternates

- 5.1.1. REB members are appointed as per the organization's REB terms of reference;
- 5.1.2. Community members (meeting membership requirements) are solicited from the greater local community;
- 5.1.3. Each REB member selected is approved by the REB Chair or designee or as determined by the organizational REB terms of reference;
- 5.1.4. Candidates selected to serve on the REB will be asked to sign a letter of appointment and a *Confidentiality of Information and Conflict of Interest Agreement*.

5.2. Appointments – REB Chair and Vice-Chair

- 5.2.1. The REB Chair is appointed as per the Organization's REB terms of reference;
- 5.2.2. The REB Vice-Chair is appointed as per the Organization's REB terms of reference;
- 5.2.3. The REB Chair and Vice-Chair will be asked to sign a *Confidentiality of Information and Conflict of Interest Agreement*.

5.3. Ad hoc Advisors

- 5.3.1. At their discretion, the REB Chair or designee may invite individuals with competence in special areas to assist in the review of issues that require expertise beyond or in addition to that available on the REB.

5.4. Terms of Appointment

- 5.4.1. Each REB member will serve for a term specified by the organization;
- 5.4.2. Re-appointment of an REB member for (an) additional term(s) is allowed, by mutual agreement of the REB member and the REB Chair or designee;
- 5.4.3. The REB Chair and Vice-Chair will serve for a term specified by the organization;
- 5.4.4. Terms will be overlapping to preserve the experience level, expertise, and continuity of the REB.

5.5. Qualifications and Training of REB Members

- 5.5.1. Each member of the REB will follow qualification and training procedures.

5.6. Resignations and Removals

- 5.6.1. An REB member may resign before the conclusion of their term upon provision of notice to the REB Chair or designee;
- 5.6.2. An REB member may be asked to step down if they consistently miss a specified percentage of the scheduled Full Board meetings in their term;
- 5.6.3. The REB Chair or designee may otherwise remove an REB member at any time, if they are not fulfilling their designated REB duties in a timely, competent and ethical manner;
- 5.6.4. An REB member should resign immediately upon determination of research misconduct, mismanaged conflict of interest or any other relevant behavior that could be perceived as compromising their ethical judgment;
- 5.6.5. Every effort will be made to recruit a similarly qualified replacement prior to the departure of a member to preserve the level of experience and expertise and to ensure the continuity of the functions of the REB.

5.7. Compensation

- 5.7.1. Compensation and reimbursement of expenses for REB members will be according to Organizational policies.

5.8. Liability and Coverage

- 5.8.1. All REB members are insured for their research ethics review-related work by the Organization's insurance policy, subject to the terms and conditions of that policy.

5.9. Documentation

- 5.9.1. The REB Office Personnel will maintain an updated electronic REB membership list;
- 5.9.2. The REB membership list is reviewed and updated as required, or with the initiation of new or conclusion/termination of existing terms;
- 5.9.3. The current REB membership list and archived lists are maintained by the REB Office;
- 5.9.4. CVs, other supporting documents related to education and expertise, signed members' letters of appointment and confidentiality agreements for all current and past REB members will be maintained in the REB office;
- 5.9.5. The REB Chair or designee will maintain the REB membership roster which may include name, degree(s), area(s) of expertise, role on the REB (e.g., faculty member, community member, legal member), gender, and indications of experience sufficient to describe each member's anticipated contribution to REB deliberations (as applicable);
- 5.9.6. A detailed membership list will be kept in the REB Office. This list will contain REB member contact information and additional information on areas of expertise for the purposes of communication and reviewer assignment. It will be kept confidential for access only by REB members and the REB Office Personnel.

6. References

See MSVU REB.POL.002 Terms of Reference
Also see References listed (if applicable)

7. Acknowledgements

The development of this document has benefited directly from similar documents made public by the Tri-Council, as well as several Canadian universities. In some instances, specific formulations drawn from these sources have been incorporated into this document. Specific iterations were drawn from the following:

- Standard Operating Procedures for Observational Health and Non-Clinical Trial Research Ethics Boards - [N2/CAREB-ACCER REB SOPs – Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards](#) (retrieved July 2021)
- N2/CAREB-ACCER REB SOPs - N2 Network of Networks - [Resources - N2 Canada](#) (retrieved July 2021)

8. SOP History

SOP Number	Key Changes	Effective Date
REB.SOP.202	Minor revisions for EDI language	October 2021
REB.SOP.202	Original Version	September 2021

This Page is intentionally left blank.