



Human Research Protections Office

Information to Consider when Evaluating an Individual's Potential for IRB Membership:

- **Potential Unaffiliated Members need to be able to answer “No” to the following:**
 - Do you currently have an affiliation (i.e., past or current employee, student) with any University of Maryland campus (other than being a patient)?
 - Does any member of your immediate family (i.e. spouse, child, parent, grandchild, etc.) have an affiliation with any University of Maryland campus (other than being a patient)?
 - Are there any other circumstances that either you or others might perceive as an affiliation with the University of Maryland campuses?

- **Non-scientist:** A member of the IRB whose primary concerns are in nonscientific areas and who have had little or no scientific or medical training or expertise. Examples of individuals who would NOT be eligible as a non-scientist are nurses, pharmacists and other biomedical health professionals.

- **Qualities of a Potential IRB Member:**
 - Good written and oral communication skills
 - Comfortable in new environments with diverse representation
 - Involved in other community projects
 - Wants to “give back”
 - Able to apply new knowledge (not rigid)
 - Able to take the perspective of a potential participant
 - Not inhibited to question others, even when others may have more specific expertise
 - Flexible schedule with transportation to UMB Biopark
 - Available for regularly scheduled IRB meetings as well as pre meeting preparations
 - Committed to protecting the participant
 - Access to a computer and printer
 - Able to appropriately manage confidential information

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of the UMB IRB, please contact Julie Doherty, Director, at 410-706-3867 or email jdoherty@umaryland.edu.