

Human Research Protections Program (HRPP) Tip of the Month

AAHRPP Accreditation: What Researchers Should Know

Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs

AAHRPP (pronounced "A-harp") accredits institutions with strong systems for protecting individuals who participate in research and supporting ethical research practices.

AAHRPP accreditation reflects an institutional commitment to protecting research participants and supporting researchers. The University of Maryland Baltimore is an AAHRPP-accredited institution and is preparing for re-accreditation this year, which is why we are sharing this information with the research community.

AAHRPP re-accreditation is a routine, peer-led review of how human subjects research is supported and conducted across the institution.

What Researchers May Be Asked to Do

As part of re-accreditation, some researchers or study team members may be:

- Asked to participate in a brief interview
- Included in the review of sample study materials, such as protocols or consent forms

These interviews are:

- Informal and conversational
- Focused on day-to-day research practices
- Not audits or evaluations of individual performance

Helpful Tips if You Are Contacted

If you are selected:

- Answer honestly based on your experience
- Describe what you typically do in practice
- It is appropriate to say, "I'd check with the IRB" or "I'd ask for guidance"
- You are not expected to recall policies word-for-word

AAHRPP's goal is to understand real-world research practices and support continuous improvement.

Why This Matters

AAHRPP accreditation supports consistent research processes, clear expectations for investigators, and strong protections for research participants. Re-accreditation reflects our shared commitment to ethical, well-managed research.

Questions?

Contact the **Human Research Protection Program** at HRPO@umaryland.edu or 410-706-5037.

