# Human Research Protections Program (HRPP) Newsletter

November 2026

## UMB IRB Chair & HRPO/IRB Virtual Office Hours

**Join us the second Monday of each month from 12 - 1 pm.**
**No reservation is required. Link HERE**

## Holiday Office Closures

**As we approach the holiday season, please plan accordingly for upcoming office closures and IRB submission timelines. Our office will be closed November 26-27 for the Thanksgiving holiday and December 24 through January 1 for the winter holiday break. The final IRB meeting of the calendar year is scheduled for December 18.**

**We wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season!**

## Assent in Research Involving Children

**Assent requirements are not determined by age alone. The IRB considers factors such as study risk, design, and the child's maturity and ability to understand the research when reviewing proposed assent procedures.**

**A commonly used approach is:**

- **Birth-6 years: Parent permission only**
- **7-12 years: Parent permission and verbal assent**
- **13-17 years: Parent permission and written assent**

**Alternative approaches may also be appropriate. Investigators are encouraged to provide a rationale for the proposed assent process when submitting studies involving children.**

## Interested in Serving on the IRB?

**The UMB IRB is seeking new members who are physician-scientists (MDs). Prior IRB experience is not necessary. Full orientation and training will be provided. If you or someone you know is an MD and is interested in joining UMB's IRB, please email HRPO@umaryland.edu with the subject "IRB Volunteer".**

**Scan the QR code for more information!**

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