The IRB is charged with the duty of making certain that all activities involving human subjects conform to the following guidelines:

A. The activity is based upon established and accepted procedures.

B. The activity is conducted or supervised by a properly qualified individual.

C. The activity is planned to include a critical evaluation of the possibility of risk or harm (physical, physiological, sociological or others, including invasion of privacy) as the consequence of this activity. The rights and welfare of the subject must be adequately protected, based on the above evaluation.

D. The activity must have an objective whereby risks to the subject are so outweighed by the sum of the benefits to the subject and the importance of the knowledge to be gained as to warrant a decision to allow the subject to accept those risks.

E. The activity can be initiated only after informed consent is obtained from the subject(s), documented by adequate and appropriate methods. These are delineated in the application form instructions.

F. Any activity that does not conform to all state and federal guidelines or IRB-required procedures is subject to termination by the Board. The IRB can suspend or terminate approval of research that is not being conducted in accordance with the IRB’s requirements or has been associated with unexpected serious harm to participants.

G. The activity must have sufficient scientific merit in the field of research to allow subjects to participate. For DoD applications, the IRB may rely on outside experts to provide an evaluation of the scientific merit.