

## PARTICIPANTS PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN RESEARCH

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When you participate in a research study, you help the world benefit from new knowledge. But most studies also involve some risk—and you deserve to know about those risks and the steps that researchers are taking to protect you.

That's where the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) comes in. AAHRPP accredits organizations that conduct or oversee research and works with them to set and maintain high standards for safe, ethical research.

We're proud of our AAHRPP accreditation and what it says about the quality of our research and our commitment to you.



## BEFORE YOU VOLUNTEER FOR A RESEARCH STUDY, ASK ABOUT AAHRPP ACCREDITATION

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AAHRPP accreditation is the global gold standard for research involving volunteers like you. Organizations that are AAHRPP accredited have demonstrated—through an objective, external evaluation—that we are committed to conducting safe, ethical research. We value research participants and put your well-being first. For more information, go to [www.AAHRPP.org](http://www.AAHRPP.org).



# How Are You Protected?

# AAHRPP Accreditation



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT AAHRPP AND AAHRPP ACCREDITATION

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AAHRPP promotes research excellence by offering accreditation to organizations that commit to high standards for research ethics and safety. Our AAHRPP accreditation provides an added assurance of quality for research participants and partners.

As an AAHRPP-accredited organization, we build protections for research participants into every study we conduct. In addition to complying with government regulations for research involving people, we go a step above and beyond by meeting all AAHRPP accreditation requirements, which are considered the worldwide gold standard.

## HOW ORGANIZATIONS ACHIEVE ACCREDITATION

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The accreditation process is rigorous, educational, and effective. It incorporates the reality that the responsibility for conducting safe, ethical research is shared by every member of our organization—every day.

To earn AAHRPP accreditation, we completed a comprehensive self-assessment and had an onsite in-depth external review by experts in human research protection programs (HRPPs). We demonstrated that our policies, practices, and procedures reflect AAHRPP's high standards for conducting research and protecting our research participants.

Equally important, we made a commitment to continuous quality improvement. To help maintain our AAHRPP accreditation, we constantly monitor and evaluate our research program, stay on top of the latest research innovations, and find new ways to make our program better.

## WHAT AAHRPP ACCREDITATION MEANS TO YOU

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AAHRPP-accredited organizations put the safety of research participants above all else. That means you can count on us to:

- Review the study with you to make sure you understand the purpose of the research, what it involves, and the potential risks and benefits. We want you to know as much as possible so you can make an informed decision about whether or not to participate.
- Inform you that your participation in the study is voluntary, and that you can withdraw at any time.
- Follow strict policies and procedures throughout the research study to protect you and make sure the research results are accurate and reliable, and that any risks are minimized.
- Continue to communicate with you to identify and address any issues that may arise during your study participation

At any point in the process, ask as many questions as you like. The decision to participate is up to you—and you have the right to all the information about the research and your participation.