

Memo to establish the Scientific Ethics Committee

To ensure adherence to ethical standards and social norms for research projects that are not required to undergo scientific and/or regulatory review in accordance with federal or state regulations, the Scientific Ethics Committee has been established.

Failure to have such research reviewed may be unethical; create an unsafe environment at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus; result in the loss of federal funds; cause the institution to incur financial or other penalties; and/or cause the public to lose confidence in the institution's research programs.

The underlying goals of the committee are:

- To promote an ethical framework for research involving embryonic cells or tissues, or other similar research that may have social implications
- To ensure that the science to be conducted has potential benefit to society
- To ensure that other alternative resources are not available to adequately address the research question
- To ensure that the proposed research is in compliance with all applicable regulations
- To ensure that such samples will be handled in an appropriate and respectful manner throughout the conduct of the research
- To promote fair policies and procedures to maximize scientific endeavor while minimizing needless use of such resources

Members of the committee

Members will be appointed by the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Regulatory Compliance and will represent a broad range of researchers, physicians in obstetrics, and individuals with advanced training in law, philosophy and/or research ethics.