

EDI Commitment by the Unity Health Research Ethics Board

The UHT REB is committed to:

- Equity, diversity, inclusion and reconciliation
- Eliminating discrimination and prejudice
- Anti-racism
- Acknowledging that research occurs within systems of oppression that can cause harm (political, social, economic and historical contexts alongside power dynamics and hierarchies)
- Upholding an anti-oppressive ethical framework

The UHT REB aspires that research reviewed by the UHT REB be:

- Of the highest quality, and an exemplification of honesty, responsibility, fairness and accountability
- Collaborative in nature, respecting the rights of individuals and communities to self-determine on issues of research design, implementation and governance
- Committed to establishing and maintaining safe spaces for researchers, trainees, participants and beneficiaries
- Demonstrative of respectful sharing of knowledge; acknowledging the reciprocal accountabilities and rights inherent in diverse knowledge producers and contributors.

In addition:

- Proposed research should respect, recognize, and protect the rights and interests of participants and their culture, knowledge, beliefs, and worldviews (recognizing that research design and implementation should be considered within the context in which it takes place)
- Proposed research should take all reasonable means to prevent harm, exploitation, abuse, discrimination and harassment as a result of the research and the systems in which it occurs
- Researchers should be explicit about, and address any, potential power dynamics and power relationships that exist in the context of the research and the research setting
- Proposed research should be scientifically valid, have potential social or scientific value, and have a favorable balance of risks and potential benefits. We encourage researchers to be mindful of populations experiencing systemic and structural oppression. Researchers should work with these populations to identify additional supports and capacities that may be necessary for these populations to be treated justly and benefit equally from research
- Researchers should establish collaborative and equitable research relationships and engagements with participating communities and groups impacted by the proposed research

- Proposed research should aim to increase access to research by removing barriers to research, particularly for potential participants from diverse and marginalized populations
- The REB is committed to having a diverse membership with representation from groups that have been historically under-represented

Approved by the Unity Health REB 14 June 2023