

Title	Composition of the REB
SOP Code	201.001
Effective Date	

Site Approvals

Name and Title (typed or printed)	Signature	Date dd/mm/yyyy

1.0 PURPOSE

This standard operating procedure (SOP) describes the membership composition requirements of the Research Ethics Board (REB).

2.0 SCOPE

This SOP pertains to REBs that review human participant research in compliance with applicable policies and guidelines.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

All REB members and REB Office Personnel are responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this SOP are met.

The REB Chair or designee is responsible for ensuring that the composition of the REB meets the applicable requirements.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

See Glossary of Terms.

5.0 PROCEDURE

Individual members of an REB must have the appropriate training, experience and expertise to ascertain the acceptability of proposed research in terms of ethical principles, and applicable policies, guidelines and regulations pertaining to human research participant protection.

To ensure thoughtful and proportional review it is important that the REB is composed of members with expertise in the disciplines and methods that match with the research submitted to them. Representatives of the communities from which research participants are recruited must also sit on the REB as members.

5.1 Selection of REB Members

- 5.1.1 In selection of REB members, equal consideration shall be given to qualified persons of both sexes. No appointment shall be made solely on the basis of sex;
- 5.1.2 The REB will make every effort to foster diversity as it reflects the population from which research participants are recruited, within the scope of available expertise needed to conduct its functions;
- 5.1.3 REB members will be selected based on the needs of the REB as outlined below and per applicable policies, guidelines and regulatory and other requirements.

5.2 Composition of the REB

- 5.2.1 The membership of the REB will be in compliance with *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*;
- 5.2.2 The REB Chair or designee monitors the REB membership composition for appropriate membership in relation to the nature and volume of research submissions;
- 5.2.3 The REB will include at least five members represented by the following categories:

- At least two members who have expertise in relevant research disciplines, field and methodologies covered by the REB,
- At least one member who is knowledgeable in ethics,
- At least one member who is knowledgeable in the relevant law. This is mandatory for biomedical research and is advisable, but not mandatory, for other areas of research, and
- At least one community member who has no affiliation with the organization;

5.2.4 A member may not fulfill more than two representative capacities or disciplines;

5.2.5 Members will include men and women;

5.2.6 At least one member, when possible, who is from an identifiable Indigenous community, when the REB reviews research that recruits participants from that community;

5.2.7 Additional membership as required by applicable legislation or guidelines.

5.3 Alternate Members

5.3.1 The REB Chair or designee may ask an alternate REB member to attend an REB meeting to draw on his/her expertise in an area that may be relevant to that meeting's deliberations, or to establish a quorum for that meeting in the absence of the regular REB member;

5.3.2 Only alternate REB members of comparable qualifications may substitute for an REB member;

5.3.3 The minutes shall document when an alternate REB member replaces a primary REB member.

5.4 REB Chair

- 5.4.1 Whenever possible and practicable, the REB Chair will be selected from experienced REB members who are familiar with the applicable policies and guidance documents;
- 5.4.2 The REB Office Personnel updates the REB membership roster to reflect this change.

5.5 Ad Hoc Advisors

- 5.5.1 At his/her discretion, the REB Chair or designee may invite individuals with expertise and competence in special areas to assist in the review of issues that require expertise beyond or in addition to that available on the REB;
- 5.5.2 The ad hoc advisor may be asked to participate in the REB meeting to lend his/her expertise to the discussions;
- 5.5.3 All ad hoc advisors shall sign a *Confidentiality of Information and Conflict of Interest Agreement*;
- 5.5.4 The ad hoc advisor may not contribute directly to the REB's decision and their presence or absence shall not be used in establishing a quorum;
- 5.5.5 Documentation of key information provided by the ad hoc advisor shall be summarized in the REB minutes and if available, the written report shall be placed in the REB files.

5.6 Observers at REB Meetings

- 5.6.1 The REB may allow observers to attend its meetings;
- 5.6.2 Observers will sign a *Confidentiality of Information and Conflict of Interest Agreement* agreeing to abide by the REB conflict of interest and confidentiality policies;
- 5.6.3 Where the REB finds that an observer qualifies as an expert in relation to the research under consideration, the observer may be allowed to contribute input if it is relevant and significant to the discussion;
- 5.6.4 Observers shall not participate when the REB discusses its decision, reaches consensus or votes on the application;

5.6.5 The minutes will reflect the presence of any observers as well as his/her expertise and contributions, when applicable.

6.0 REFERENCES

See References.

7.0 REVISION HISTORY

SOP Code	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
SOP201.001		Original version