The Michigan State University (MSU) Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) is committed to educating the research community about their rights as research subjects and the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process by providing information and evaluating the community outreach efforts.

The Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) in conjunction with the Human Research Liaison office and the HRPP are responsible for enhancing the outreach efforts targeted towards research subjects and the community about the IRB process. The HRPP assures that researchers employ a procedure that provides a venue for subjects to ask questions and voice concerns or complaints.

Research subjects are also encouraged to contact the IRB or the director of the HRPP if they want to obtain information, offer input, or voice complaints or problems. They may also submit comments using the online feedback form which allows for anonymity. See HRPP Manual 5-6 “Contact Information” for multiple contact mechanisms available to research subjects. One mechanism for providing information to research subjects is the HRPP website. The HRPP website provides information to the research community and subjects about human subject research, the rights of research subject, the IRB process, and whom to contact with questions, concerns, or complaints. The website provides the following educational links, including but not limited to:

- Human Subjects Protection – A Brief History
- Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) – The Basics
- Clinical Trial Information
- Information for Kids
- U.S Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) Pamphlet: *Becoming a Research Volunteer: It’s Your Decision*
- U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Pamphlet: *Quick Information: Why Volunteer? Clinical Trials of Medical Treatment*

The IRB provides other educational opportunities to the university community about human subject research activities and the IRB process. See HRPP Manual 11, Education and Outreach, for descriptions of other educational opportunities. For example, past IRB conferences have been open to the public and patient advocates or research subjects can register to attend. Also, the Graduate School’s Responsible Conduct of Research series also includes a session focused on human subject
research where students who may not be involved in conducting human subject research may attend to learn about human subject protection.

The MSU IRB works closely with the Clinical and Translational Science Initiative (CTSI) and the Office of Clinical Research to foster collaboration and outreach efforts with the goal to promote continual improvement of community outreach and engagement activities, focusing on clinical research. In addition, the CTSI / OCR website provides additional information for subjects about clinical trials, including but not limited to:

- Definitions of Clinical Research
- Clinical Trial

In addition, the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies (VPRGS) provides information on their website to educate the community about MSU’s research activities. The VPRGS website includes information about, but it not limited to:

- Research Spotlights
- Research News
- Research.msu.edu

The Michigan State University Outreach and Engagement (UOE) website provides education including but not limited to:

- The Engaged Scholar Magazine
- The Engaged Scholar E-Newsletter
- The Engaged Scholar Speaker Series