# Definitions

**Affiliation (IRB Membership)**

This refers to UH faculty members, staff, students (currently taking more than 1 credit per semester), and administrators of the University, and their immediate family members (i.e., spouse, domestic partners, dependent children). Alumni are not considered affiliates if they have since graduated from the University for at least 6 months.

**Benefit**

A valued or desired outcome; an advantage. Benefits of research fall into two categories:

1. **Benefit to subjects:** Research subjects may undergo treatment, diagnosis or examination for illness, abnormal conditions, or social circumstances. This type of research can involve evaluation of a procedure or social situation that may benefit the subject by ameliorating or providing a better understanding of their condition or situation.

2. **Benefit to society:** Patients and healthy individuals may also agree to participate in research that is either not related to any illness they may have or that is related to their conditions, but not designed to provide any diagnostic or therapeutic benefit. Such research is designed principally to increase our understanding and store of knowledge about human physiology and behavior. Research that has no immediate therapeutic intent may, nonetheless, benefit society as a whole. These benefits take the form of increased knowledge, improved safety, technological advances, and better health.

**Confidentiality**

Respecting a potential or active participant’s right to be free from unauthorized release of information that the individual has disclosed in a relationship of trust and with the expectation that it will not be shared with others without permission of the participant in ways that violate the original agreement. This agreement, in human subjects research, is usually the informed consent.

**Non-scientist (IRB Membership)**

Members whose training, background, and occupation would incline them to view research activities from a point-of-view outside of any behavioral or biomedical research discipline.

For example:

- **Humanities** (e.g., Art, Classics, Drama, English, Music, Philosophy, Religion, Literature)
- **Natural Scientist** (e.g., Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Math, Statistics, Earth Science)
- **Other Nonscientist** (e.g., Library, Education, Business, Government, Law)

**Privacy**

Respecting an individual’s right to be free from unauthorized or unreasonable intrusion, including control over the extent, timing and
circumstances of obtaining personal information from or about them.

| **Private Information** | Individually identifiable information:  
| | • About behavior that occurs in a context in which an individual can reasonable expect that no observation or recording is taking place; and/or  
| | • Which has been provided for specific purposes by an individual and which the individual can reasonable expect will not be made public (e.g., medical records). |

| **Risk** | The probability of harm or injury (physical, psychological, social, or economic) occurring as a result of participation in a research study, as distinguished from the risks of everyday life and of therapies the subjects would receive even if not participating in the research. Both the probability and magnitude of possible harm may vary from minimal to significant. |

| **Scientist (IRB Membership)** | Members whose training, background, and occupation would incline them to view scientific activities from the point-of-view of someone within a behavioral or biomedical research discipline. For example:  
| | • **Physician Scientist** (e.g., Medicine, Dentistry, Psychiatry)  
| | • **Social Scientist** (e.g., Anthropology, Communication, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)  
| | • **Other Scientist** (e.g., Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Nutrition) |

| **Sensitive Information** | Private information relating, but not limited, to:  
| | • Sexual attitudes, preferences or practices  
| | • Use or treatment for alcohol, drugs or other addictive products  
| | • Illegal conduct  
| | • Information which if released could reasonably cause stigmatization or discrimination, or result in damage to areas such as financial well-being, employability, or reputation.  
| | • Certain health information, including psychological or mental health. |