1.0 Purpose
The purpose of this SOP is to describe the requirements for scientific and scholarly merit review of all research proposals submitted to the IRB for review.

2.0 Policy
It is the policy of the IRB that all research proposals must undergo a scientific or scholarly merit and resource review per Health and Human Services regulations at 45 CFR §46.111(a)(1)(i) and 45 CFR §46.115(a)(1).

Prior to submission to the IRB, this is conducted by the Departmental IRB Liaison. After submission to the IRB, this is conducted by the IRB Chair or an IRB Member(s) with appropriate expertise.

2.1 The IRB, utilizing member expertise and/or consultants, will evaluate the scientific and scholarly validity of a proposed study. The IRB has broad-based disciplinary expertise, which allows a judgment to be made that the proposed research meets the following criteria in consideration of the need to satisfy scientific and scholarly merit requirements:

A. The research uses procedures consistent with sound research design.
B. The research design will allow the proposed research question to be answered.
C. The knowledge to be gained from the research is sufficiently important from the research or training perspective.
D. The risk/benefit relationship is acceptable.

When the IRB does not have sufficient expertise, the Board will utilize a consultant [HRPP Policy #2.003].