

CTSI Clinical & Translational Research Ethics Consultation (CTREC) Program

To learn more or request a research ethics consultation, please contact ctrec@nyulangone.org

The CTSI Clinical & Translational Research Ethics Consultation (CTREC) Program at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine provides private consultations for NYUGSoM-affiliated faculty, residents, postdoctoral scholars, students, and staff to promote ethical research. Consults may be requested at no cost concerning ethical issues arising at any stage of research, including during study development, conduct, analysis, and publication.

CTREC is an additional, voluntary service offered to those involved in the conduct of research; it is not a replacement for review and oversight by an institutional review board, data safety monitoring board, conflict of interest or compliance personnel, etc.

CTREC operates independently, is advisory, and has no formal decision-making authority. Consistent with the neutrality of the program and the confidential nature of the process, communication to CTREC does not put the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, including department chairs, IRBs or other committees, on notice of the content of the communication.

CTREC consultations are available to provide advice on any ethical issues, including:

- Animal-human chimera or hybrid research
- Human embryonic stem cells
- Genetic research
- Research on vulnerable populations
- Research on stigmatizing conditions (for example, mental illness)
- Research on illegal activities (such as illicit substance use or sex work)

The role of CTREC **includes:**

- Listening and discussing questions, concerns, and complaints
- Assistance in identifying and evaluating possible options
- Explanation of NYUGSoM policies and procedures
- Referral to appropriate individuals or NYU Langone offices or departments
- Information gathering on an informal basis
- Coaching for individuals/research teams to address ethical issues on their own

The role of CTREC **does not include:**

- Adjudication or participation in formal grievance processes
- Administrative or academic decision-making for others
- Determinations of guilt or wrongdoing of anyone involved
- Establishing, changing or setting aside institutional policies
- Participating in investigations of a formal nature, or writing investigation reports
- Providing legal advice
- Psychological counseling or therapy
- Serving as an office of notice for the NYUGSoM, or as a place to file a formal complaint, grievance, or legal matter
- Handling complaints from research participants or funders

CTREC staff do not disclose confidential communications unless given permission to do so, or as required by law, or where there appears to be imminent risk of serious harm. **It is important to note that confidentiality cannot be maintained if there is a report of any suspected violations of federal, state or local laws.** For example, confidentiality cannot be maintained when there is a report of employment discrimination, unlawful harassment, sexual assault, imminent threats to physical safety, or violation of ethical rules governing professional misconduct. Under such circumstances, CTREC staff have a legal obligation to report such matters to the appropriate office or department.

CTREC will log metrics to permit assessments of the services' use, and these may be shared within NYUGSoM and/or externally; however, requestors' names/identifying information (for the requestor and/or the research for which the request was lodged) will not be shared.