

SDU Research Ethics Committee – Introduction

Research ethics at SDU

SDU's Research Ethics Committee (REC) is responsible for institutional review and approval of research projects with SDU researchers as principle investigators. In the US system, this committee is called the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Why was the REC established?

When applying for external funding or when submitting papers to leading scientific journals, researchers are more and more often demanded to prove that their research projects comply with certain ethical standards. Previously, SDU did not have one uniform way, accepted broadly by external funders and journals, of providing ethical support and approval. By establishing a university-wide Research Ethics Committee, SDU aims to provide ethical support and an approval system that is helpful for researchers.

When do researchers need REC approval?

The ethics review by the SDU REC is a voluntary service offer on the part of SDU. However, researchers need approval whenever an external organization, such as for example NIH, a European funder or a journal, demands ethical approval before granting funds, accepting a publication or engaging in other types of partnering activities. The SDU REC offers to provide this inhouse review.

Research projects that have already been approved by the Danish Regional or National Ethical Committee System (RVK or NVK) or other accepted ethical bodies (such as *Dyreforsøgstilsynet*/Danish Animal Experiments Inspectorate or *Arbejdstilsynet*/Occupational Health Authorities for experiments involving animals) do not need approval by the REC for Danish research projects. However, such projects will often also need REC approval to obtain a US grant.

How to obtain ethical support and approval

The REC's procedures and support tools are currently being developed and will be updated accordingly. Your feedback is appreciated.

The following documentation is to be submitted to the REC for review:

- The completed questionnaire "*Ethical Approval for SDU Research Projects*", including a layman description of the research project as requested in the questionnaire
- The official proposal documents (project sketches and descriptions, templates of informed consent forms, etc.) as far as available

Committee members and procedures

The REC includes 6 researchers, incl. a chairperson and one representative from each faculty, and 2 representatives from the administration. The REC is supported by a Research Ethics Coordinator that serves as contact point.

The REC members appointed by the faculties (as of May 2019):

Kirsten Kyvik, chair (SUND - KI)

Eva Arnspang Christensen (TEK - KBM)

Frank Kjeldsen (NAT- BMB)

Søren Fryd Birkeland (SUND - OPEN)

Stephan Billinger (SAMF- IMM)

Stig Børsen Hansen (HUM - IDK)

Bolette Marie Kjær Jørgensen (Communications)

Charlotte Wien (BIB)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the REC Office:

Nadine Kollmeyer

Research Ethics Coordinator

SDU Research & Innovation Organisation

nadko@sdu.dk

T +45 65 50 35 78

M +45 93 50 74 83