



**Division of Scholarly Integrity and
Research Compliance**
Institutional Review Board
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<http://www.research.vt.edu/sirc/hrpp>

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 16, 2024

TO: Alireza Shojaei kol kachi, Xinghua Gao, Abiola Abosede Akanmu, Philip Ryan Agee, Reachsak Ly

FROM: Virginia Tech Institutional Review Board (FWA00000572)

PROTOCOL TITLE: Usability Evaluation of Generative AI, Digital Twin, and Blockchain Governance Systems for Data-Driven and Decentralized Community-Based Facilities Management in Smart Buildings

IRB NUMBER: **24-1244**

Effective December 16, 2024, the Virginia Tech Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) determined that this protocol meets the criteria for exemption from IRB review under 45 CFR 46.104 (d) category(ies) 2(ii).

Ongoing IRB review and approval by this organization is not required. This determination applies only to the activities described in the IRB submission and does not apply should any changes be made. If changes are made and there are questions about whether these activities impact the exempt determination, please submit an amendment to the HRPP for a determination.

This exempt determination does not apply to any collaborating institution(s). The Virginia Tech HRPP and IRB cannot provide an exemption that overrides the jurisdiction of a local IRB or other institutional mechanism for determining exemptions.

All investigators (listed above) are required to comply with the researcher requirements outlined at:

<https://secure.research.vt.edu/external/irb/responsibilities.htm>

(Please review responsibilities before beginning your research.)

PROTOCOL INFORMATION:

Determined As: **Exempt, under 45 CFR 46.104(d) category(ies) 2(ii)**
Protocol Determination Date: **December 16, 2024**

ASSOCIATED FUNDING:

The table on the following page indicates whether grant proposals are related to this protocol.

| Date* | OSP Number | Sponsor |
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* Date this proposal number was added.

If this protocol is to cover any other grant proposals, please contact the HRPP office (irb@vt.edu).