3.1 PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS

1. RISKS TO HUMAN SUBJECTS

a. Human Subjects Involvement, Characteristics, and Design
- Briefly describe the overall study design.
- Describe the subject population(s) to be included in the study; the procedures for assignment to a study group, if relevant; and the anticipated numbers of subjects for each study group.
- List any collaborating sites where human subjects research will be performed, and describe the role of those sites and collaborating investigators in performing the proposed research.

b. Study Procedures, Materials, and Potential Risks
- Describe all planned research procedures (interventions and interactions) involving study subjects; how research material, including biospecimens, data, and/or records, will be obtained; and whether any private identifiable information will be collected in the proposed research project.
- For studies that will include the use of previously collected biospecimens, data or records, describe the source of these materials, whether these can be linked with living individuals, and who will be able to link the materials.
- Describe all the potential risks to subjects associated with each study intervention, procedure or interaction, including physical, psychological, social, cultural, financial, and legal risks; risks to privacy and/or confidentiality; or other risks. Discuss the risk level and the likely impact to subjects.
- Where appropriate, describe alternative treatments and procedures, including their risks and potential benefits. When alternative treatments or procedures are possible, make the rationale for the proposed approach clear.

2. ADEQUACY OF PROTECTION AGAINST RISKS

a. Informed Consent and Assent
- Describe the process for obtaining informed consent. Include a description of the circumstances under which consent will be sought and obtained, who will seek it, the nature of the information to be provided to prospective subjects, and the method of documenting consent. When appropriate, describe how potential adult subjects' capacity to consent will be determined and the plans for obtaining consent from a legally authorized representative for adult subjects not able to consent.

b. Protections against Risk
- Describe planned strategies for protecting against or minimizing all potential risks identified, including strategies to manage and protect the privacy of participants and confidentiality of research data.
- Where appropriate, discuss plans for ensuring necessary medical or professional intervention in the event of adverse effects on participants.
- Describe plans for handling incidental findings, such as those from research imaging, screening tests, or paternity tests.

c. Vulnerable Subjects, if relevant to your study
- Explain the rationale for the involvement of special vulnerable populations, such as fetuses, neonates, pregnant women, children, prisoners, institutionalized individuals, or others who may be considered vulnerable populations. 'Prisoners' includes all subjects involuntarily incarcerated (for example, in detention centers).

3. POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH TO RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS AND OTHERS

- Discuss the potential benefits of the research to research participants and others.
- Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits to research participants and others.
- Note: Financial compensation of subjects should not be presented as a benefit of participation in research.

4. IMPORTANCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE TO BE GAINED
- Discuss the importance of the knowledge to be gained as a result of the proposed research.
- Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to the importance of the knowledge that reasonably may be expected to result.