

The Affiliated Fair Scientific Review Committee

A Scientific Review Committee (SRC) is a group of qualified individuals that is responsible for evaluation of student research, certifications, research plans and exhibits for compliance with the rules and applicable laws and regulations at each level of science fair competition. Local SRCs may be formed to assist the Affiliated Fair SRC in reviewing projects. The operation and composition of the local and Affiliated Fair SRCs must fully comply with the International Rules. Directions for obtaining preapproval are available from the affiliated fair. A list of fairs is at: <http://apps2.societyforscience.org/ssp-affiliate-fair/>.

Most proposed research projects involving vertebrate animals and/or potentially hazardous biological agents must be reviewed and approved BEFORE experimentation. Local or regional SRC prior review is not required for human studies previously reviewed and approved by a properly constituted IRB.

ALL projects, including those previously reviewed and approved by an IRB, must be reviewed and approved by the SRC after experimentation and before competition in an Intel ISEF Affiliated Fair. Projects which were conducted at a Regulated Research Institution (not home, high school or field) and which were reviewed and approved by the proper institutional board before experimentation, must also be approved by the Intel ISEF Affiliated Fair SRC.

An Affiliated Fair SRC must:

- a. include a minimum of three persons
- b. include a biomedical scientist (earned doctoral degree, such as Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M., D.D.S., PharmD., or D.O.)
- c. include an educator
- d. include at least one additional member

Additional expertise: many project evaluations require additional expertise (e.g., on biosafety and/or of human risk groups). If the SRC needs an expert as one of its members and one is not in the immediate area, all documented contact with an external expert must be submitted. If animal research is involved, at least one member must be familiar with proper animal care procedures. Depending on the nature of the study, this person can be a veterinarian or animal care provider with training and/or experience in the species being studied.

No Adult Sponsor, parent or other relative of the student(s), the Qualified Scientist, or the Designated Supervisor who oversee the project may serve on the SRC reviewing that project. Additional members are recommended to diversify and to increase the expertise of the committee.

A Scientific Review Committee (SRC) examines projects for the following:

1. evidence of literature search and appropriate attribution
2. evidence of proper supervision

3. use of accepted and appropriate research techniques
4. completed forms, signatures and dates showing maximum of one year duration of research and appropriate preapproval dates (where required)
5. evidence of search for alternatives to animal use
6. humane treatment of animals
7. compliance with rules and laws governing human and/or animal research and research involving potentially hazardous biological agents
8. documentation of substantial expansion for continuation projects
9. compliance with the Intel ISEF ethics statement