



18/04/2018

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING ETHICS APPROVAL OF RESEARCH STUDIES**

Academic Staff Members

All academic staff members to please note that ethics approval has to be obtained from the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee (REC) for **any health-related research** that will be performed by any member of staff, affiliate or student of the University of Pretoria. Failure to do so amounts to research misconduct in terms of the University's Regulations and is a transgression of the National Health Act No. 61 of 2003.

Please note the definition of health-related research as contained in the National Health Act No. 61 of 2003:

- "health research"** includes any research which contributes to knowledge of -
- (a) the biological, clinical, psychological or social processes in human beings;
  - (b) improved methods for the provision of health services;
  - (c) human pathology;
  - (d) the causes of disease;
  - (e) the effects of the environment on the human body;
  - (f) the development or new application of pharmaceuticals, medicines and related substances; and
  - (g) the development of new applications of health technology"

This approval is **in addition to** any academic approval or permission that may have been obtained from relevant committees and institutions.

Please also note that no research can or will be approved retrospectively as stipulated in national as well as local regulations:

**"RECs may not grant retrospective ethics approval"**

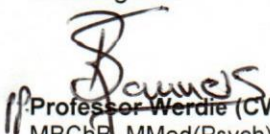
*National Department of Health 2015 Guidelines: Ethics in Health Research - Principles, Processes and Structures*

"The Ethics Committee reviews all health research that are connected to the Faculty of Health Sciences. No retrospective (post ex facto) ethics approval can or will be granted (as enforced by the Senate Ethics Committee in January 2008)"

*Faculty of Health Sciences REC Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures (6 June 2017)*

All documents and instructions needed to apply to the REC are available on the committee's website: <http://www.up.ac.za/healthethics>

With regards

  
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