The IRB would like to offer a resource to researchers that can help to promote justice, diversity and research ethics in your proposed designs. Below is an excerpt from a policy forum published in Science Magazine in March of 2021[[1]](#footnote-1). Although this doesn’t change the process of IRB review, we hope researchers will be mindful of the following in their research development.

**INITIAL REVIEW**

**Study aims and subject selection**

• Do the demographics of the proposed sample reflect those

of the population affected by the condition or for whom the

intervention is intended?

 • When they do not, is the deviation adequately justified?

 • Is planned under- or overrepresentation by age, race,

ethnicity, sex, gender, or social determinants of health in the

sample scientifically justified?

 • Is there a statistical plan for examining heterogeneity in

outcome or across subgroups?

**Criteria for inclusion and exclusion**

• Will inclusion and exclusion criteria inadvertently or

unnecessarily result in under- or overrepresentation of

understudied subgroups?

• Have alternative approaches to minimizing risk that do not rely

on exclusion been considered?

**Recruitment**

• Have recruitment procedures considered specific approaches to

engage underserved populations?

**Study conduct**

• Are study procedures flexibly organized to accommodate the

needs of underrepresented groups?

• Do all participant-facing materials conform to health

literacy principles?

• Are participant materials translated? Is back translation

necessary? If not, why not?

**Payment**

• Is payment sufficient to cover costs of participation?

Return of results

• Are study results intended to be returned in a manner that

meets the needs of populations studied?

**CONTINUING REVIEW**

• Has the study fulfilled its recruitment and accrual goals?

• Is demographic distribution on track to approximate

the study goals?

• If not, are adequate corrective actions described, sufficient, and

likely to be successful?

1. Strauss, D., White, S. & Bierer, B. Justice, diversity, and research ethics review. *Science, 371*(6535), 1209-1211. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)