

# IRB ANNUAL REPORT

## Jan – Dec 2025

Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects

Email: [cphs@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:cphs@uth.tmc.edu)  
Tel: 713 500 7943  
Website: <https://www.uth.edu/cphs/>



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# CPHS FACULTY REPORT

The UTHealth Houston Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) is committed to continuous quality improvement. This means we actively reflect on and refine our processes, ensuring efficient and effective review. We gather feedback from researchers, analyze data, and implement evidence-based changes. This ongoing process strengthens our ability to safeguard research participants while fostering scientific progress, ultimately promoting a culture of excellence in ethical research conduct.

As part of the quality improvement effort, the HRPP earned full accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) in June 2009 and has maintained its accredited status continuously since then.

The quality assurance plan includes review of IRB metrics and feedback from the research community to assess the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the program and make improvements, when necessary, to enhance the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the program.

This report dives into the UTHealth Houston IRB's operations in 2025. It includes data on the submissions reviewed by the IRB in 2025, including types of submissions and turnaround time.

If you have questions, suggestions, or feedback, or if you would like more information about IRB operations, please contact [cphs@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:cphs@uth.tmc.edu).

# IRB PERSONNEL

## IRB Leadership

### Institutional Official

Anne Dougherty, MD  
Vice President, Human Research Protection Program

Susan Wootton, MD  
Assistant Vice President, Human Research Protection Program

### IRB Panel 1

Chair: Rebecca Lunstroth, JD  
Vice Chair: Rita Swinford, MD  
Vice Chair: Neethu Menon, MD

### IRB Panel 2

Chair: Deborah Brown, MD  
Vice Chair: Catherine  
Thompson, BSN, MPH  
Vice Chair: Joy Schmitz, PhD

### IRB Panel 3

Chair: Max Buja, MD  
Vice Chair: Charles Miller, PhD  
Vice Chair: Carlos Artime, MD

## IRB Membership Roster: [Current Term - September 2025 to August 2026](#)

### IRB Staff:

Susan Vanessa Fuller, BS, IRB Manager  
Laura K. Lincoln, BS, IRB Manager  
Alba Zeigler, BS, CPhT, Sr. IRB Coordinator  
Chandni Chaudhari, MD, IRB Coordinator  
Gabrielle Longo, BS, IRB Coordinator  
Aleen George, MHA, MBA, IRB Coordinator  
Ryesha Cook, MBA, IRB Coordinator  
Meagan Olivares, MS, CCRP, Research Compliance Specialist  
Laura Baker, BS, IRB Coordinator (IRB Reciprocity)  
Adrick Harris, BS, Graduate Research Assistant (Personnel Changes)  
Barbara Legate, BS, Sr. Business Systems Analyst (iRIS Support)

### Research Compliance Staff:

Sujatha Sridhar, MBBS, Associate Vice President, Research Compliance (Policies)  
Elizabeth Gendel, PhD, Director, Research Compliance (Regulatory Reviewer)  
Sylvia Romo, BSBM, Assistant Director, Research Compliance (QI and IRB Reciprocity)  
Shwetha Pazhoor, MS, Program Manager, Research Compliance (Post-Approval Audits)  
Jessica Alvarado, MPH, Sr. Research Compliance Specialist (Post-Approval Audits)

# IRB WORKLOAD METRICS

Figure 1. New Protocols Submitted for IRB Review in 2025

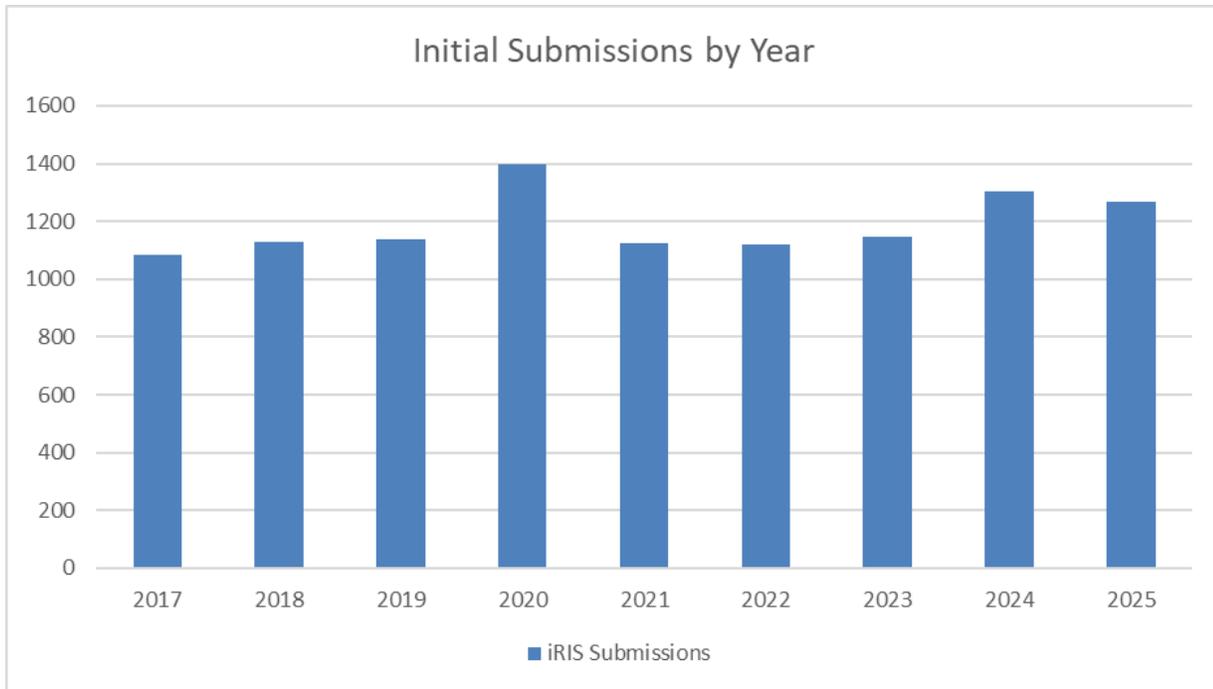
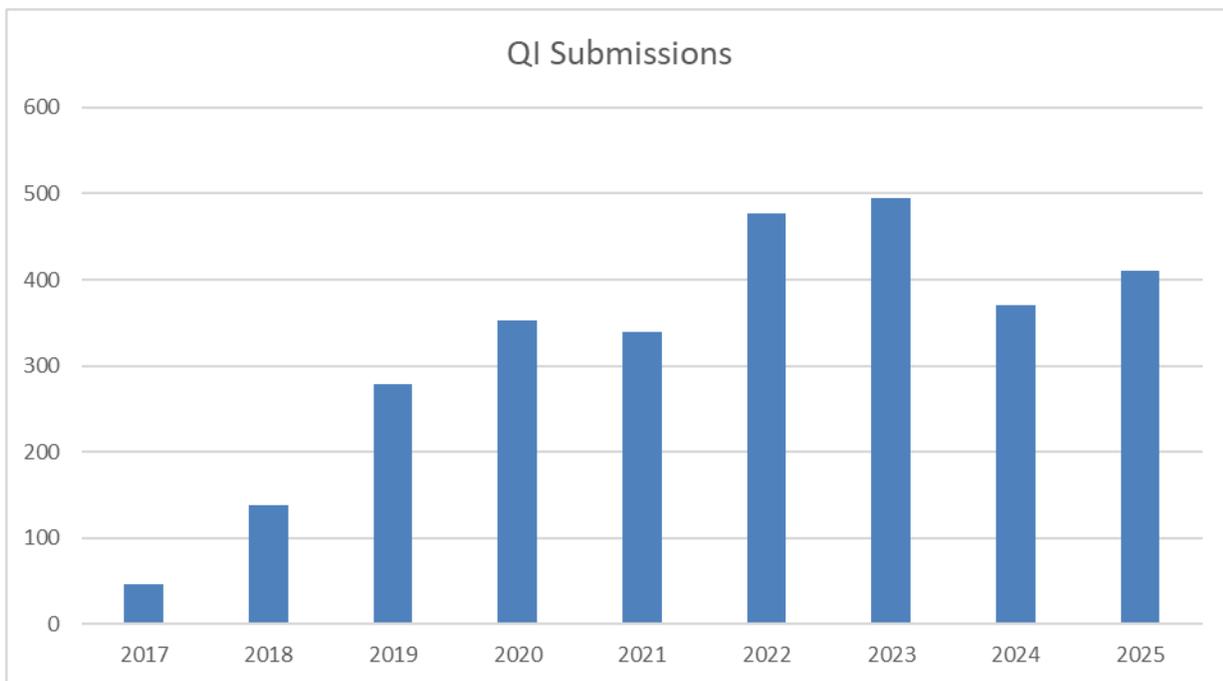
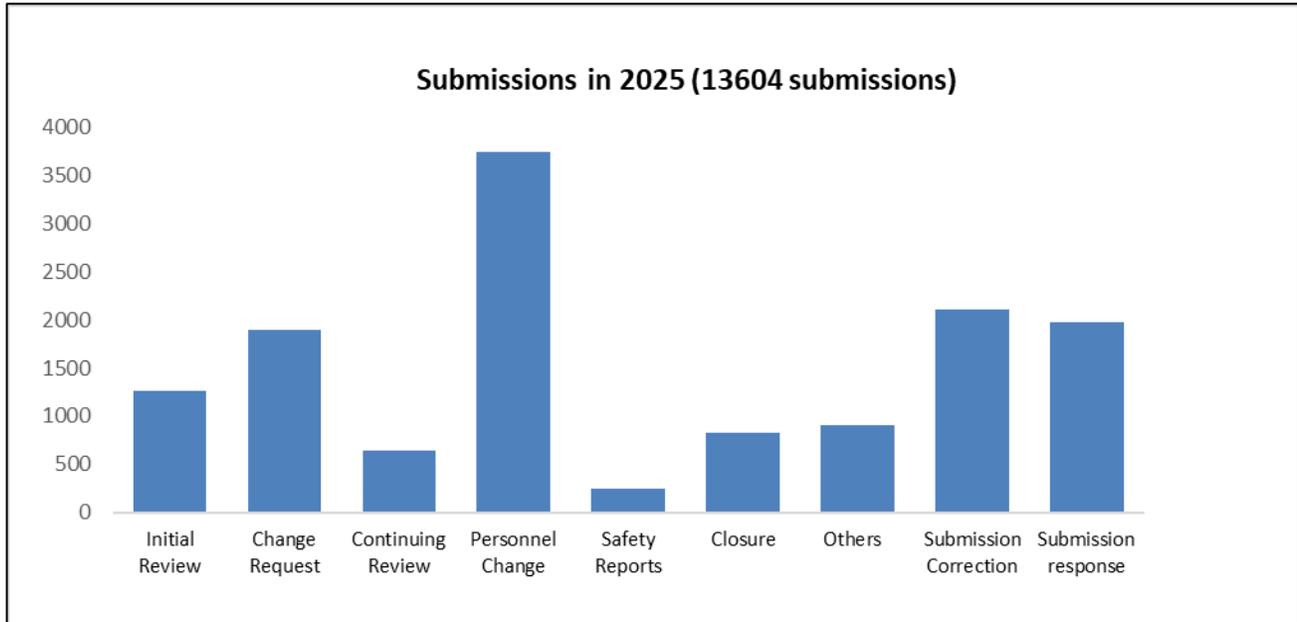


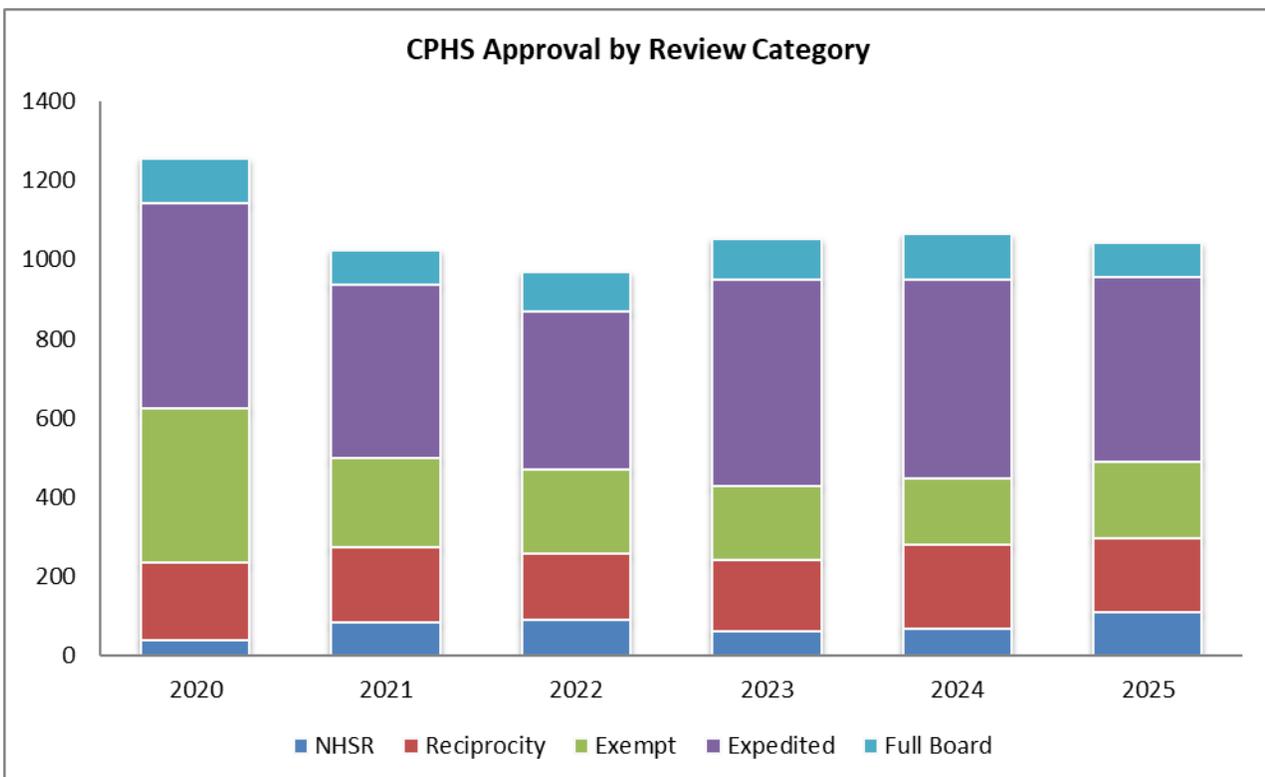
Figure 2. New Quality Improvement Projects Submitted in 2025



**Figure 3. Submissions by Type in 2025**



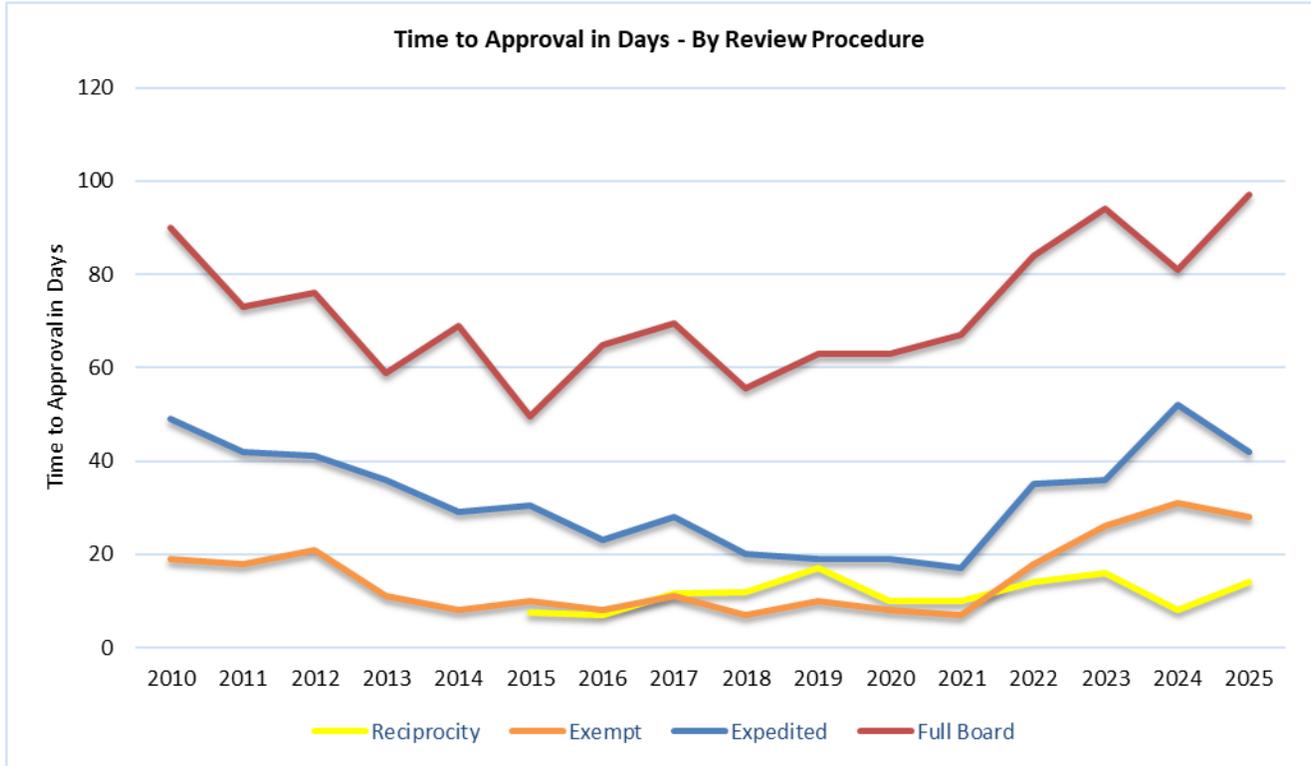
**Figure 4. New Protocols Approved from 2020-2025 by Review Category**



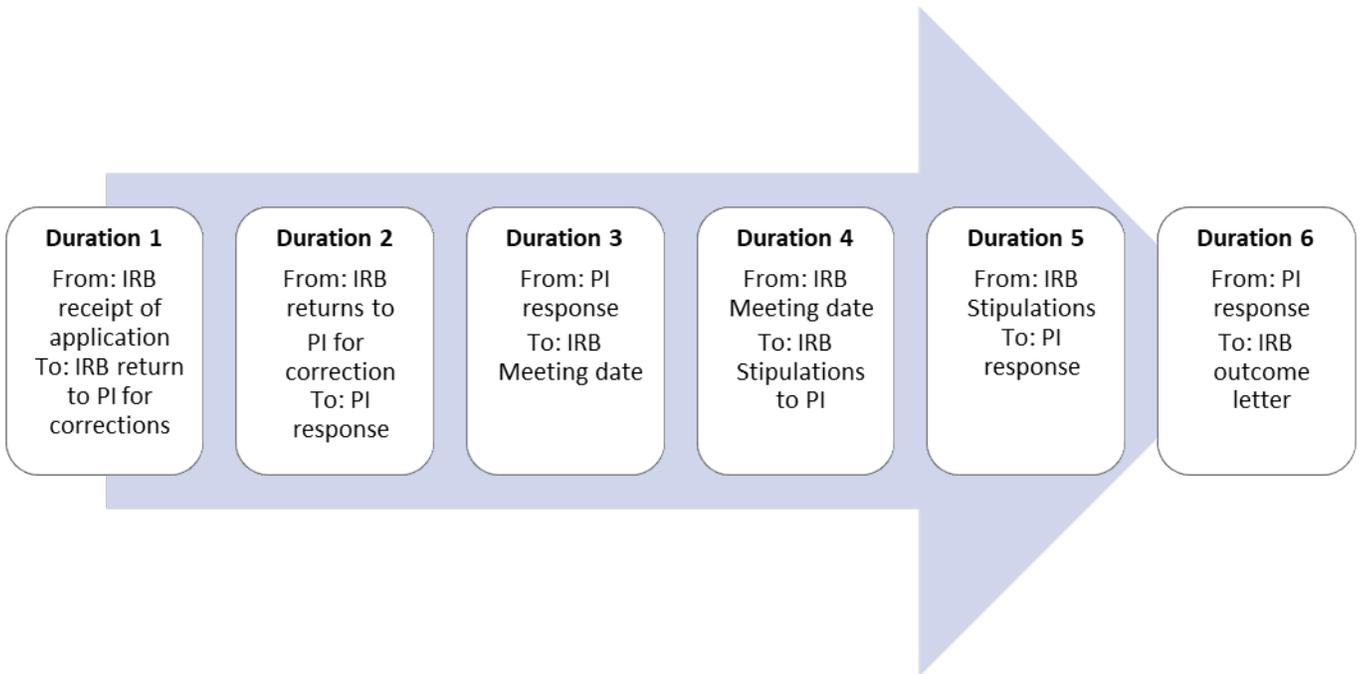
\*NHSR – Not Human Subjects Research. More information on review categories in [IRB Policies](#).

# IRB OPERATIONS METRICS

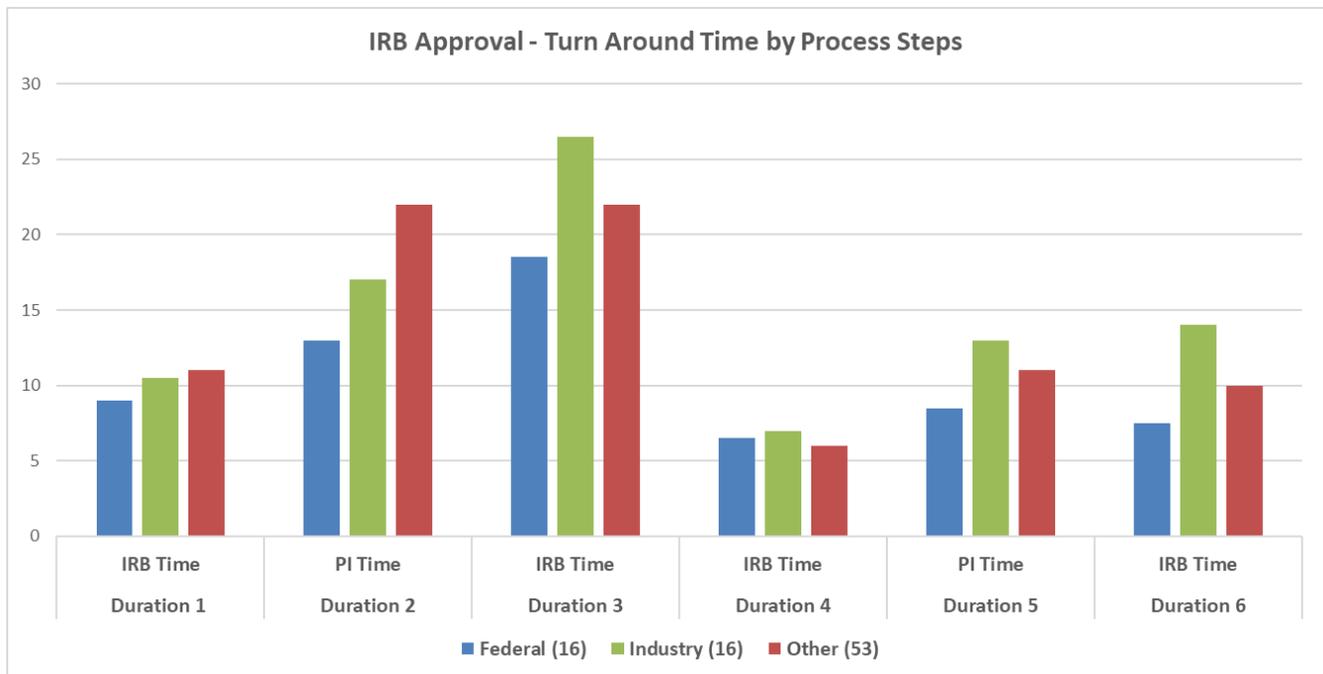
Figure 5. Time to Approval for Initial Reviews by Review Category



**Figure 6. Turnaround Time for New Protocols Approved by Full Board**



*\*An application may go back and forth between the IRB office and research team for clarification multiple times before being assigned to a meeting. After the meeting, the application may go back and forth multiple times until it is finally approved.*



# CPHS FACULTY SURVEY

A link to the CPHS Faculty Survey is in the email notification with all IRB outcome letters. Between January 2025 and December 2025, there were 110 responses.

**Figure 7. CHPS Faculty Survey**

