



## **Institutional Review Board**

### **LAY SUMMARY GUIDANCE**

#### **What the lay summary should include:**

1. A statement of the problem of interest
2. General statement of how the problem will be studied
3. How the research will advance scientific knowledge and/or human health
4. What the standard of care, if any, is

#### **Style of the lay summary:**

The summary of study objectives should be written as if you were trying to give an overview of your research to someone with no more than a high school education. It may help to imagine explaining your research to someone you have met outside academia or the medical community, or to a family member or neighbor.

#### **Some additional guidelines:**

1. Any technical terms need to be defined in simple language. Go to <http://www.med.umich.edu/irbmed/guidance/guide.htm> for a guide to simplification of medical terms.
2. All abbreviations should be spelled out the first time they are used, or, alternatively, defined in lay terms.
3. It is not necessary to include a complete description of the study design in this portion of the submission; rather, give a general sense of the strategy and/or techniques involved.