IRB Policy 29: Ombudsman  
Revision Date: February 16, 2008

I. Definitions

A. **Ombudsman**: A neutral person who mediates for the participants or their family or a legally authorized representative.

II. Summary Policy

It is the policy of both the ETSU IRB and the ETSU/VA IRB to include an ombudsman in the research process, when applicable. An ombudsman may serve as an additional resource for participants or the community.

III. Selection

A. The ombudsman is typically a scientist or an individual with expertise in the area

IV. Role of an Ombudsman

A. to govern the research process where the subjects may be extremely vulnerable or can become vulnerable during the research
B. if the study involves a vulnerable population, the PI may be required to obtain or choose an ombudsman

References:
The Belmont Report
45 CFR 46