



The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) accredited SUNY College of Optometry's human subject research program on Wednesday, March 22.

AAHRPP provides accreditation for organizations that conduct or review human research, demonstrate that they have built extensive safeguards into every level of their research operation, and adhere to high standards for research. The National Institutes of Health, the world's largest public funder of research, has earned accreditation, as has Pfizer, Inc., the largest industry sponsor of clinical research.

"The standards set by AAHRPP form the benchmarks that human subject research programs across the world strive for," says Dr. Stewart Bloomfield, associate dean for graduate studies and research and director of the Graduate Center for Vision Research. "This achievement indicates that faculty and staff at the College offer the highest standard of care and protection for the people who serve as subjects in our clinical research program."

To date, 238 organizations have earned AAHRPP accreditation, including hospitals, academic institutions, and integrated health care systems in 47 states, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, and Thailand. All major U.S. independent institutional review boards have earned AAHRPP accreditation. More than 60 percent of U.S. research-intensive universities and 65 percent of U.S. medical schools are either AAHRPP accredited or have begun the accreditation process.