

# Doing the Right Thing

## The watchful work of the Human Studies Committee

Before clinical research begins, a team of medical professionals and local community members validate its appropriateness. The Human Studies Committee (HSC) is nearly 300 volunteers working on more than a dozen committees to review the thousands of proposed and ongoing clinical research studies at the School of Medicine.

### Lives in the balance

Acceptable studies protect and may even heal the patient, while providing hope for future health care benefits for others.



### Three guiding principles

Human medical research poses a spectrum of ethical issues. The HSC weighs the needs of the select groups proposed for study and each study's predicted benefits to science, ensuring that medical research is ethical, just and reasonable. HSC members are trained to make decisions based upon three principles—all historically complex philosophical ideals:

Protect the right and foster the ability of people to decide.

Maximize possible benefits, minimize possible harm.

Distribute the benefits and burdens equitably.

