



## **MDRS Research Approval Process**

As part of your crew application you have probably filled out a research information form briefly describing any research project(s) that you plan to undertake at MDRS. Or perhaps you have suggested a multi-mission research project for the coming MDRS season. Congratulations, you have just completed the first step in having your project reviewed and approved for performance at MDRS.

## **The Remote Science Team**

The RST is a group of about 15 scientists and engineers with expertise in the most common research disciplines exercised at MDRS. We have geologists, geophysicists, geobiologists, environmental scientists, physicists, chemists, paleontologists, microbiologists, medical researchers, and human factors experts – and more. The RST's charter is to review all research proposed for MDRS in terms of its scientific value, feasibility and safety.

Concerning safety, the RST must establish that each project, and combinations of simultaneous projects, will be safe for the researchers, crewmembers, physical plant of the Habitat, and for the fragile desert environment outside the Hab. The RST will ask you to submit evidence of IRB (institutional review board) or CPHS (committee for the protection of human subjects) approval for any research involving humans, even survey-only research. We will help you figure out whether such review will be necessary or whether your research will be exempt.

Concerning feasibility, the RST will establish whether the equipment at the Hab and that brought with the crew will together be adequate to support the studies proposed. Note that the habitat has very few items of permanent scientific equipment or supplies, and no way to dispose of laboratory waste. You will correspond with the RST about the feasibility of performing your study at the Hab, alternative methodologies, transport of supplies and removal of any lab waste.

Finally, the RST will review your project for scientific value and work with you to clarify your hypotheses, improve your experimental design and coordinate with other crews planning similar research.

## **RST Submissions**

As soon as possible after your notification of acceptance, prepare a 2-5 page project proposal for the RST. Include a brief literature review, state and justify the research objectives, describe the methods to be used (including equipment and supplies), and discuss any anticipated problems. If your research uses human subjects your proposal can also serve as a part of your IRB review submission. Submit your proposal to Shannon Rupert, RST director, at [shannonmarie\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:shannonmarie_99@yahoo.com). Your proposal is due 30 days before the start of your crew rotation (earlier is much appreciated). The RST reserves the right not to review a project submitted late. Only projects approved by the RST may be conducted at MDRS.