

## **Castle IRB Receives Full Accreditation from AAHRPP.**

St. Louis, Missouri - Immediate Release: Castle IRB was awarded full accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc.® (AAHRPP) on December 15, 2020.

Castle IRB was established as an independent IRB in 2019. Just weeks after registering with the OHRP and FDA, Castle IRB initiated the accreditation process with AAHRPP, demonstrating a strong commitment to quality. AAHRPP recognized Castle IRB's leadership, IRB members, and staff for their dedication to the mission to support gene and cell therapy research and beyond, and Castle IRB's board composition, which includes leading experts in gene and cell therapy research, as well as family members of the rare disease community.

Melissa Fink, MA CIP, Director stated, "We are thrilled that the human subjects protection program built by Castle IRB to serve the unique needs of the gene/cell therapy and rare disease community has been validated by the experts at AAHRPP with our receipt of full accreditation. It was especially satisfying for AAHRPP to recognize Castle IRB's energetic, committed, and knowledgeable IRB members and staff, positive work culture, and collaborative, responsive customer service. We look forward to bringing our concierge approach to IRB oversight to even more Sponsors, CROs, institutions, and investigators in 2021."

Chris Jenkins, PhD, MPH, RBP, CHMM, President, "The team at Castle Institutional Review Board is uniquely constructed for the conduct of the latest in cutting-edge clinical trials involving biological materials. The hard work of the staff supporting this board is personified with the AAHRPP accreditation, the gold standard for institutional review boards. With this accreditation, we can provide our expertise to hundreds of institutions as biologics grows exponentially in the coming years, and we look forward to our experts supporting the research at sites, CROs, and Sponsors in this endeavor."

### **About Castle IRB:**

Castle IRB is an independent institutional review board that specializes in the ethical review of gene therapy, cell therapy, rare disease and unique research projects in the U.S. The mission of Castle IRB is to protect the rights and welfare of human participants in gene/cell therapy studies, rare disease studies, and beyond while providing efficient, compliant IRB review of research. Our IRB composition includes leading experts in gene and cell therapy and rare disease research to support our mission, as well as those who have experience with vulnerable populations. Using our portfolio of expertise, we strive to be the leading IRB partner in advancing safe, ethical and compliant specialized studies to accelerate the next evolution in advanced therapies.

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### **About AAHRPP:**

The Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc.® (AAHRPP) is a nonprofit organization that promotes high-quality research through an accreditation process that helps organizations worldwide strengthen their human research protection programs (HRPPs) by focusing on ethics, quality and the protection of human research participants. To learn more about AAHRPP, visit [www.aahrpp.org](http://www.aahrpp.org).