Introduction and Overview

Peregrine Eye and Laser Institute (PELI) has been in the forefront of research and innovation since commencing operations in 2012. For over ten years, research has been a driving factor in the goal of Peregrine Eye and Laser Institute (PELI) to provide excellent, modern, evidence-based quality care to its patients. Only through ground breaking responsive ethical research can up-to-date interventions and better patient options become readily available to improve health outcomes. Without the benefit of research, Filipino patients would have to settle for outdated modes of treatment and procedures. This is one of the prime motivations in the establishment of the PELI Institutional Review Board (PELI-IRB) in CY 2012. The PELI-IRB has provided ethical guidance and patient safeguards in the pursuit of responsive clinical research studies that benefit not only PELI patients but also all Filipinos nationwide. It is also pioneering in that it is one of a few ethics review committees/institutional review boards outside the confines of a hospital setting. PELI researches have contributed positively to the entry of fresh and novel innovative solutions to different eye disorders and conditions in the country as well as improved patient outcomes for many Filipinos.

The advent of fresh new techniques and solutions to age-old eye disease has given PELI new approaches to these ailments. With the growing complexities of eye numerous diseases, the evolution of basic sciences in the understanding of these eye disorders, and the endless possibilities of interactions between and among disease entities, the approach of PELI must equally evolve to be more holistic in order to serve the needs of its patients fully. It must also be facilitative in assessing innovative new medicines, medical supplies, and therapeutic interventions. These consequently place a burden on the institution to do more researches to remain true to its goal for its patients.

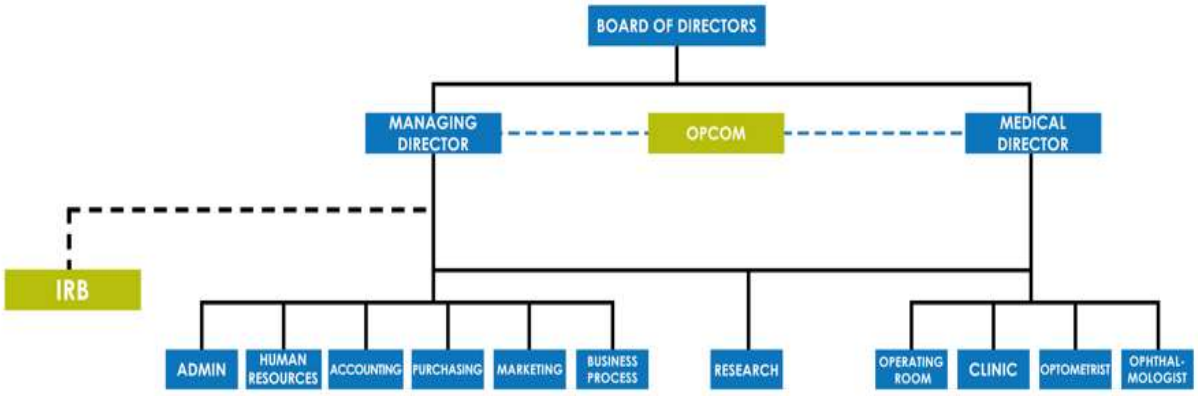
The core value of PELI is the patient centered approach to medical care. All research at PELI is designed to improve the quality of lives of patients. Investigational studies should assure the safety and welfare of research participants, especially research studies trying out innovative treatment options. Patient rights must be continuously upheld in line with local and international ethical and regulatory standards.

In this regard, the PELI-IRB aims to adhere to the highest standards of safety to safeguard the interests of patients and research participants, among others. PELI-IRB shall aim to be independent, well represented, and compliant with existing non-discriminatory public policies and regulatory standards.

To this end, the PELI-IRB shall continuously strive to do its duty to facilitate innovative researches without compromising ethics, patient safety, welfare and rights.

1. PELI- IRB Vision and Mission

The Peregrine Eye and Laser Institute – Institutional Review Board (PELI-IRB) is an independent body dedicated in promoting the rights and welfare of human research participants by ensuring the safety and well-being of human participants involved in health-related research, and providing public assurance of that protection. We facilitate excellence in human research by providing timely and high-quality research review, which are conducted in scientifically sound and ethical manner. We also aim to provide professional guidance and support for the research community, which are all in accordance with the applicable national/international guidelines.



2. Structure and Mandate

The PELI-IRB is an independent body established by the Peregrine Eye and Laser Institute under the Managing Director, to safeguard the dignity, rights, safety, and well-being of human participants involved in health-related research and to provide public assurance of that protection. In accordance with applicable national/international regulations, the PELI-IRB has the authority to approve, require modifications to, or disapprove research protocols and related documents as well as ensure compliance with its relevant procedures after approval.

3. Functions:

1. To ensure protection on the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of all actual or potential human participants involved in research

2. To contribute to the development of the harmonization process of ethics review based on the national and international ethical guidelines.
3. To ensure competency and timely review of submitted protocols by following the Standard Operating Procedure
4. To ensure that researches are conducted according to Good Clinical Practice
5. To address and act on concerns of research participants and other stakeholders