

Overview of fMRI Use for IRB:

The NYIT fMRI scanner is a non-invasive imaging system designed to measure blood oxygenation levels in the brain to infer neural activity. This research-grade scanner is housed on campus and operated by a licensed MRI technician. A board-certified radiologist will review every scan for incidental findings or safety concerns; no clinical diagnoses will be made unless explicitly approved by IRB protocol.

Key Elements for Inclusion in Individual Protocols: (checklist)

Participant Screening:

- Standard MRI safety checklist (metal implants, pacemakers, pregnancy, claustrophobia, etc.)
- Assessment of comfort and ability to remain still for 30–60 minutes

fMRI Procedure:

- Participants will lie in the scanner and complete task-based or resting state protocols
- Duration: Typically 30–60 minutes per session
- Earplugs and padding will be provided for comfort and noise reduction

Staffing and Oversight:

- Scans will be conducted by a licensed MRI technician
- Radiologist will review every scan for incidental findings; the radiologist does not participate in analysis or interpretation of research data

Incidental Findings and Reporting:

- Participants will be informed that incidental findings may occur
- If present, findings will be reported to the PI and to the participant, with referral to their physician if needed

Data Management:

- Imaging data will be de-identified and stored on NYIT's secure research server
- Data may be shared with collaborators under IRB-approved Data Use