

Office of Student Research



University of Maryland School of Medicine

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Use of Animals in Biomedical Research

Institutional Animal Care And Use Committee (IACUC)

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After

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What is it?

Standing committee appointed by the Dean

Required Member Composition:

Veterinarian; nonscientist; nonaffiliated; + group of scientists

(UMB has a coordinator, chair, veterinarians, 2 nonscientists, 3 nonaffiliated people, and 9 scientists from diverse backgrounds)

Why is it important?

Recognized by federal and other funding agencies, USDA, accrediting agencies, and the public to provide assurance of credibility that the use and care of all animals for research, teaching, and training comply to the ethical standards and various regulations set by government agencies

Without a local IACUC, all animal care and use required to be reviewed through federal government agencies

Regulations & Policies

If using
animals
or
animal
tissues



Requires
IACUC
Review

What does it do?

Reviews use of all animals and approves protocols submitted by faculty for compliance to regulations BEFORE animals can be ordered, any research can begin, and funds released from most agencies

Major parameters reviewed: (3 R's- Replacement, Reduction, Refinement)

- Rationale and justification for using animals + type of species, number, etc.,
- Unnecessary duplication of animal use (requires ≥ 2 database searches)

What does it do?

- Proper procedures are performed to minimize pain & distress (from acquisition through final disposition of animals)
- Experience and training of P.I. and coworkers in procedures

Biannual inspection of all facilities for proper care and use of animals

Provides training to personnel via veterinary staff

Disseminates information to P.I. relative to animal use & care

Meets with USDA inspector annually and AAALAC accreditation inspectors during their review of our facilities and animal protocols

Precarious Ethical Situation for the IACUC

Serves as the advocate for both animals & scientists to perform animal activities at UMB-SOM

Insures proper compliance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS publication)

Maintains privilege to conduct animal care & use at UMB

Provides assurance to the public (including 'animal rights' groups) that research is conducted according to guidelines and ethical standards prescribed by federal, state, and local regulations

Consequences of Non-Compliance

- Principal Investigator
 - Protocol Suspension
 - Charged with Scientific Misconduct
 - Loss of Privilege to use animals
- IACUC / Institution
 - Required to report incident to Feds, AAALAC & Funding Agency
 - Subject to Audits and/or fines
 - Potential Loss of Animal Welfare Assurance, USDA Registration, and AAALAC Accreditation
 - Loss of PHS Funding
 - Loss of the privilege to use animals
 - Loss of trust from the community

Responsibility of the P.I. & You

- Before working with animals, the PI will review their approved animal protocol with you.
- The PI, or a trained staff member or veterinarians, will train you in any or all procedures before you perform any procedure that you do not have expertise.
- Remind your PI to add your name & your role to their protocol.
- If you are working with animals on our campus, complete the Risk Assessment for Allergies on-line (<3 minutes), <http://medschool.umaryland.edu/orags/acuo> & notify Vet. Res. to obtain card access to the facility.
- If you have questions ask your PI, or contact IACUC or the ACUO, X6-4365

Useful Web Sites

Local IACUC: <http://medschool.umaryland.edu/orags/acuo> for instructional manuals, submission forms, etc.,

USDA: www.usda.gov for regulations and links to literature database searching

AAALAC: www.aaalac.org for regulations of accrediting association

National IACUC: www.iacuc.org for general information, valuable links