

Principal Investigator Changes

A change in the Principal Investigator (PI) on a protocol is considered a significant modification that requires full IACUC consideration. This is not merely our local IACUC policy, but a federal requirement established by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) within NIH. That means a PI cannot simply informally turn the reins over to another faculty member when leaving the University or changing research focus.

If you are planning on relinquishing control of a protocol to someone else, you must submit a modification to the IACUC. The email (or modification form) must include the reason for the change and the qualifications of the new PI to oversee the project as well as conduct the specific procedures stated in the protocol. If any procedural or other changes need to be made to accommodate the new PI, they should be included in an amendment in the same manner.

Protocol Maintenance: The Annual Renewal

Once an Animal Utilization Proposal (AUP or protocol) has been approved, the PI is responsible for keeping the protocol current. One way to do this is the Annual Renewal.

PI's are notified annually to submit an annual renewal form. This is typically a short administrative process that provides the IACUC an update of the protocol's progress, and ensures that the protocol is kept in compliance with the governing regulations and policies.

School's Out for the Summer

Use the modification form or a quick email to IACUC@austin.utexas.edu to remove students that will no longer work on your protocol(s) and to add new members that will be joining your lab over the summer.

Remember, personnel changes should be done in real time (i.e., when people join or leave a lab) and not on an annual basis (i.e., at the time of the annual renewal).

Tip of the Month

Consider the following questions when writing the "Rationale for Animal Use" section (Section D, part 2) of the protocol:

- Why must animals be used? Discuss why non-vertebrate alternatives such as tissue culture, invertebrate animals, computer simulations, or human epidemiological studies can't provide the information to be gained.
- Why are the species you have selected the most appropriate for these studies?
- How have you determined that the numbers requested represent the smallest number of animals needed to fulfill the goals of the study over a three-year period? Provide a detailed rationale that includes information on statistically-determined minimum group sizes, how animals will be allocated to different portions of the project, requirements for breeding, etc.

The next IACUC Full-Committee Review (FCR) is **June 9, 2008**.

The deadline to submit materials for review is **May 28, 2008**.