

New Content Provider for Required IACUC Training

The IACUC recently changed online training content providers for web-based training.

The IACUC-required training is a three-fold process. The actions needed are not complicated and can be done on your own schedule. They involve:

1. Completing a brief online training tutorial for each of the species with which you will be working.
2. Completing the online UT-Austin Orientation Training Module.
3. Downloading and filling out a health questionnaire (or signing off on the declination statement) and sending it on to the ARC.

More information and instructions are at the training section of the IACUC website.

If you have any questions or concerns when using this new system, please contact the ARC Compliance and Training Manager, Jennifer Cassaday, at 471.3909 or jencassaday@mail.utexas.edu.

Save Time Using IACUC Guidelines

When submitting a new protocol or protocol amendment, the IACUC will often accept a statement that the research staff will follow an IACUC approved policy and/or guideline, with the guideline title referenced, in lieu of stating each detail of the guideline. This may be particularly helpful when referring to such procedures as small animal blood collection, euthanasia, and humane endpoints.

For example, a researcher conducting mouse studies in which tumors will be generated may reference the "Guidelines for Maintenance of Tumors and Hybridomas in Rodents" under the appropriate section of the protocol, instead of itemizing each of the criteria that would warrant euthanasia.

Common Deficiencies Identified During Semi-Annual Inspections

- **Expired or missing protocols.** Protocols cannot be used after expiration. Protocol binders should have current protocols, approval letters, training documentation, and standard operating procedures.
- **Animals not checked daily.** Check all animals daily including holidays and weekends and keep records. Record daily room temperature and relative humidity in housing areas.
- **Incomplete cage cards.** Cage cards should include current protocol number, animal source, strain or stock, principal investigator name, contacts of responsible individuals, and pertinent dates.
- **Expired drugs and supplies.** Identify, segregate, and properly dispose of outdated drugs and supplies.

Tip of the Month

It is a good idea to keep a paper (or PDF) copy file of active protocols available for active personnel. Old copies of revised or expired versions, however, need to be disposed of by shredding.

Remember, protocols are public documents, which may be accessible via the Texas Public Information Act. The Office of Research Support must keep these documents on file for three years after the expiration/retire date.

The next IACUC Full-Committee Review (FCR) is **October 13, 2008**.

The deadline to submit materials for review is **October 1, 2008**.