

# IACUC Update

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
The University of Texas at Austin

February 2010

Volume 3, Issue 6

## Increased Scrutiny on Use of Animals in NIH Grant Applications

Proposals involving the use of vertebrates must include a discussion of five points regarding the use and treatment of animals in the Research Design and Methods section:

- 1) The proposed use of the animals,
- 2) A justification for the use of animals, the choice of species, and the numbers to be used,
- 3) Description of the veterinary care,
- 4) A description of procedures for minimizing pain and distress, and
- 5) A description of and rationale for the method of euthanasia.

NIH's new *Worksheet for Review of the Vertebrate Animal Section* walks applicants through the steps of creating a critically important section of the Research Plan. It covers all the required ground and provides both a checklist and an actual sample plan that was rated "Acceptable" by the review panel. The worksheet is available online as a PDF file at:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/VASchecklist.pdf>

## We Want to Hear from YOU!

If you would like a specific topic discussed or have a question you would like answered in a future issue of this newsletter, please send your suggestions to: [IACUC@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:IACUC@austin.utexas.edu)

## Safety Guidelines for Field Researchers

Attention all Field Researchers! The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) has produced "Safety Guidelines for Field Researchers." The guidelines are intended to help you plan and prepare for health and safety problems you might encounter in the field. The Guidelines will be posted to the EH&S website soon.

## Eye Protection

There have been several recent incidents involving eye exposures to lab animal workers. It is important to always wear eye protection whenever there is the potential for the materials you are working to get into the eye.

In one instance, a researcher was splashed in the eye with a nanoparticle solution. In another instance a researcher received an eye exposure while loading a syringe with an anesthetic.


The Labor Department estimates that there are over 1,000 eye injuries every day in the workplace. Don't be a statistic!

Remember, eye protection is **mandatory** when working with non-human primates. See the ARC Guidelines on PPE requirements for personnel working with non-human primates:

[www.utexas.edu/research/arc/misc/nhp.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/research/arc/misc/nhp.pdf)

## eProtocol Tips of the Month

A few tips on navigating eProtocol IACUC:

- Navigate using the arrow icons in the upper right corner of page, or jump straight to a particular section using the left-hand menu.
- Each time you advance a page, the application form will be automatically saved. You can also save by clicking the save icon in the upper right-hand corner of the page .
- Some special **required fields** will have a red asterisk \*.

The next IACUC Full-Committee Review (FCR) is **March 8, 2010**.

The deadline to submit materials for review is **February 12, 2010**.

Animal Welfare Assurance  
**A4107-01**

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**October 29, 2001**