

IACUC Update

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

June 2010

Volume 3, Issue 10

A Primer on the Three Rs Part 1: Replacement

It is widely accepted that the humane scientific use of animals should be guided by the Three Rs: Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement. The concept of the Three Rs was first introduced by WMS Russell and RL Burch in their 1959 book *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique*.

Replacement alternatives refers to methods which avoid or replace the use of animals in an area where animals would otherwise have been used. This includes both absolute replacements (i.e., replacing animals with inanimate systems, such as computer programs) and relative replacements (i.e., replacing more sentient animals, such as vertebrates, with animals that current scientific evidence indicates have a significantly lower potential for pain perception, such as some invertebrates).

Sources: Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC); Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC).

A Friendly Reminder on Training

The IACUC requires all personnel who conduct any research and/or teaching that involves handling, manipulating, or performing procedures on live vertebrate animals, whether in the laboratory or in the field, to complete certain online training (see the training page of the IACUC website for details).

Protocols will not be reviewed until all personnel listed on a protocol are current with their training.

eProtocol IACUC will not allow submission of any protocol actions (new, revisions, renewals) until all personnel are current with their training.

Refresher training for both Principal Investigators (PIs) and protocol personnel is required every three (3) years.

Grant-to-Protocol Comparisons

The *PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (PHS Policy) requires that an IACUC has approved the animal care and use described in a funded grant proposal PRIOR to the release of funds. To ensure that protocol procedures are consistent with those contained in a PHS grant proposal, the IACUC requires that a copy of the grant proposal is uploaded into your eProtocol application (or provided to the Office of Research Support (ORS) for Legacy Protocols).

The IACUC will compare the procedures contained in the grant proposal with those contained in the IACUC protocol. The grant may contain less detail or fewer procedures than the IACUC protocol and still be in concordance, but a protocol must contain ALL procedures described in the grant proposal.

It is important to recognize that protocol review and approval takes time. Thus, a protocol should be submitted as soon as possible and not at the just-in-time phase.

It is also important for PI's to keep their status with all sponsors current. Sponsors expect PI's to report changes in animal use made to a funded project that differ significantly from the original objectives of the grant. ORS does not report protocol amendments to sponsors, but amendments will be examined if the Office of Sponsored Projects makes any request for verification of IACUC review.

References

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps_2003/NIHGPS_Part5.htm#_Toc54600087

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-02-064.html>

IACUC Handbook of Policies and Procedures Section 4.2: Comparison of Grants to Protocols

The next IACUC Full-Committee Review (FCR) is **July 12, 2010**.

The deadline to submit materials for review is **June 18, 2010**.

Animal Welfare Assurance
A4107-01

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