

# IACUC Update

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

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## A Primer on the Three Rs Part 2: Reduction

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

**Reduction alternatives** refers to any strategy that will (1) result in fewer animals being used to obtain sufficient data to answer the research question, or (2) maximize the information obtained per animal and thus potentially limiting or avoiding the subsequent use of additional animals. Reduction should never compromise animal welfare.

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

## Use of Chemical Grade Pharmaceuticals in Animals

In compliance with Federal Animal Welfare Regulations and guidance and standard veterinary medical practice, the IACUC requires that investigators use pharmaceutical grade medications whenever they are available, even in acute/terminal procedures. Pharmaceutical grade compounds must be used in all situations where the health and well-being of the animal are at risk (anesthesia, analgesia, emergency drugs, euthanasia) and for routine veterinary care (non-research).

The IACUC acknowledges that, under certain circumstances, the use of non-pharmaceutical grade chemical compounds in experimental animals may be a necessary and acceptable component of biomedical research. **Non-pharmaceutical grade chemical compounds may be used for scientific investigation provided that a scientific justification is provided for specific review and approval by the IACUC.**



## 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*: Now in Pre-Publication

The Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) of the National Academy of Sciences has released a prepublication copy of the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)*, see [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12910](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12910). Until the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Guide* is published in its final form, the 1996 Edition will remain the official *Guide* for the purposes of implementation of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The PHS Policy requires that Assured institutions base their programs of animal care and use on the *Guide* and that they comply with the regulations (9 CFR, Subchapter A) issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Welfare Act.

## eProtocol Tip of the Month

**I have received review comments on my protocol. When do I have to respond by?** With eProtocol, much of the protocol review occurs PRIOR to the convened FCR. Two members of the IACUC are assigned as the Primary Reviewers for each protocol. Review comments (if any) will be provided within five business days. If the reviewers have comments, you will receive an email notification. Please review and respond to the review comments promptly. If you do not provide responses and revise your protocol, the Committee may TABLE your protocol at the FCR or they may NOT APPROVE your protocol.

The next IACUC Full Committee Review (FCR) is **August 9, 2010**.

The deadline to submit materials for review is **July 16, 2010**.

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