

# IACUC Update

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

February 2015

Volume 8, Issue 5

## eProtocol Tip of the Month

### What is the best way to describe a terminal tissue harvest in eProtocol?

If tissues need to be collected while the animal is still alive (i.e., under anesthesia), then the protocol needs to describe the anesthesia methods. If tissues will be collected after euthanasia, then the protocol needs to describe the harvest procedures.

The "Procedure Type" listing in eProtocol contains two distinct entries:

- **Tissue Harvest (non-survival under anesthesia)** should be selected for all procedures in which animals are anesthetized for tissue harvest.
- **Tissue Harvest (post-mortem after euthanasia)** should be selected for all procedures in which animals are first euthanized for tissue harvest. Because post-mortem harvest procedures occur after euthanasia, these procedures do not generally need to be entered into a protocol. eProtocol, however, requires at least one procedure is entered for each protocol, so this procedure is made available for groups whose only manipulation of animals is tissue harvest after humane euthanasia.

## Semi-Annual Lab Evaluations: Coming Soon!

The semi-annual evaluations of all the University's animal facilities will occur during **April 2015**. This process involves an examination of all areas where animals are used or housed for teaching, research, and/or testing.

A complete schedule will be provided in next month's *IACUC Update*.

You can begin preparing your laboratory for the visit by reviewing the revised "Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklists" that are available on the "Documents, Materials, and Forms" page of the IACUC website.

## 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).*

## Need Help? Call Us!

The Office of Research Support is here to help. Please call if you have any questions!

**(512) 471-8871**

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the IACUC Website

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section of the IACUC website contains a wealth of information, from eProtocol basics to IACUC functions.

<http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/iacuc/faqs.html>

If you can't find what you're looking for, please contact the Office of Research Support.

The next IACUC Full Committee Review (FCR) is **April 6, 2015**.

The submission deadline for review at this FCR is **March 13, 2015**.

Animal Welfare Assurance  
**A4107-01**

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Please contact the Office of Research Support with any questions, comments, or concerns.  
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