

# IACUC Update

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

March 2015

Volume 8, Issue 6

## Building Flexibility into Your Animal Utilization Proposal (AUP) (or Protocol) Forms

In order to maintain compliance and the flexibility needed in the conduct of animal studies, it is recommended that your AUP/protocol be written with a range of justifiable options to use.

**For euthanasia**, list several acceptable options, e.g., CO<sub>2</sub> (followed by cervical dislocation), pentobarbital overdose, etc.

**For blood collection**, give a range of acceptable amounts, frequencies, and intervals, e.g., 0.05-0.10 µL of blood will be drawn from the facial vein every 1 to 3 days for up to 14 days.

**For study endpoints**, give maximum times or markers, e.g., animals will be euthanized no later than 3 weeks after administration of test article depending on animal condition and study progress.

**For behavioral tests or radiographic examinations**, give a range of timing and frequency, e.g., an x-ray will be taken 2-6 times during the 10-30 days following the procedure.

The flexible options you build into an AUP/protocol should be based on appropriate study design and reasonable choices, but careful planning at the time of AUP completion can help minimize the need for protocol amendments in the future.

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## eProtocol Tip of the Month

**Why was my protocol RETURNED?** The Vice President for Research established the Office of Research Support (ORS) to serve as an administrative office to support the IACUC. The ORS receives protocols and screens them regarding compliance with administrative requirements, readability, and completeness. Protocols are usually returned because questions have not been answered, additional details are required, etc.

## A Primer on the Three Rs Part 3: Refinement

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*.

**Refinement alternatives** refers to the modification of husbandry or experimental procedures to minimize pain and distress, and to enhance the welfare of an animal used in science from the time it is born until its death.

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

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## Semi-Annual Facility Evaluations: Coming Soon!

The semi-annual evaluations of all the University's animal facilities will occur from **April 1 through April 14, 2015**. This process involves an examination of all areas where animals are used or housed for teaching, research, and/or testing.

A complete schedule is attached to this newsletter. Unfortunately, the IACUC will be unable to provide specific times within each evaluation window for individual laboratories.

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.

The next IACUC Full Committee Review (FCR) is **May 4, 2015**.

The submission deadline for review at this FCR is **April 10, 2015**.

Animal Welfare Assurance  
**A4107-01**

AAALAC Accredited Since  
**October 29, 2001**

Please contact the Office of Research Support with any questions, comments, or concerns.  
voice: (512) 471-8871 | web: <http://www.utexas.edu/IACUC> | email: [IACUC@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:IACUC@austin.utexas.edu)



INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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TO: **All Principal Investigators and Laboratory Personnel**  
FROM: **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**  
DATE: **March 23, 2015**  
SUBJECT: **Notice of Spring Semi-Annual Animal Facility Evaluations**

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will conduct the fall facility evaluations from **April 1, 2015 through April 14, 2015**. This process involves an examination of all areas where animals are used and housed for research, teaching, and/or testing. The [Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklists](#) should be used to facilitate your laboratory preparation for the facility evaluations and is a good resource to keep your laboratory in tip-top shape.

Please post the name(s) and best contact method (e.g., lab phone, cell phone, etc.) of a knowledgeable person that will be present and able to answer questions during the laboratory visits.

**Spring Semi-Annual Facility Evaluation Schedule**

(dates and times subject to change)

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

NHB (vivarium, labs, imaging center)

**Wednesday, April 8, 2015**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

ARC Floor 2, 3

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

MBB, NMS, PHR

**Wednesday, April 8, 2015**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

PRC

**Thursday, April 2, 2015**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

PAT Basement, Floor 1, 2, 3

**Thursday, April 9, 2015**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

MSI

**Thursday, April 2, 2015**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

BEL, PAT Floor 4, 5, 6

**Monday, April 13, 2015**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

ARC General Facilities, Floor 1

**Monday, April 6, 2015**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

ARC Annex, vehicle(s)

**Monday, April 13, 2015**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

DPRI

**Tuesday, April 7, 2015**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

BME, PAI, SEA, WEL

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

BFL

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