

# IACUC Update

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

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## Small Animal Imaging Resources

The Imaging Research Center (IRC), located in the basement of NHB, provides access to MRI and Bioluminescence/Fluorescence /Chemiluminescence imaging instruments to UT researchers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These imaging systems can help provide unique, longitudinal insight into physiology, yielding more reliable and robust experimental data. They not only answer questions that are not easily accessible via other methods, they reduce the numbers of animals needed to achieve statistically-powerful results. The Center's resources are designed to be economical and easy to use.

The MRI is a Bruker BioSpec 7 tesla system and is capable of reproducing nearly any small animal MRI experiment in the literature. Researchers may be trained to operate the system themselves. MRI is well-known for anatomical imaging, but it can also be used to make non-invasive measurements relating to organ perfusion, vascularity, ischemia, and various kinetics of metabolic processes. All of this can usually be performed in longitudinal studies.

The BI/FL/CI system is a Xenogen IVIS Spectrum. It is a remarkable instrument. It is capable of making rapid, quantitative measurements in cell tracking, oncology, infectious disease, and CNS applications. The IVIS is capable of simultaneously imaging five animals. This instrument is so easy to use, an experienced animal researcher can be trained to use it in about a half hour.

To get a tour of the facility or to get more information, please contact Jeff Luci, ([jeffrey.luci@utexas.edu](mailto:jeffrey.luci@utexas.edu)).

## Why Animals Are Needed in Research

Friends, family, and acquaintances often ask those of us in the biomedical research community: why must we use animals in research?

The Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR) has created a new video that answers this very question and is designed to be a shareable teaching tool. The video features some of the country's leading scientists and medical experts who talk about why animal research is critical for medical progress and the advancement of both human and animal health.

Please watch the video on FBR's YouTube Channel and share it with those you know who are curious about animal research:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=414HT9RHKRk>

## Need Help? Call Us!

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

**(512) 471-8871**

## Requirements for the Operation and Maintenance of Guillotines

As per the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia, equipment used to perform decapitation must be maintained in good working order and serviced on a regular basis to ensure the sharpness of the blades. To assist researchers, the IACUC has prepared basic requirements for the operation and maintenance of guillotines:

[http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/iacuc/policies\\_index.html](http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/iacuc/policies_index.html)

The next IACUC Full Committee Review (FCR) is **July 13, 2015**.

The submission deadline for review at this FCR is **June 19, 2015**.

Animal Welfare Assurance  
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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)