

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

**IACUC Policy # 2.0**

TITLE	Who Can be a Principal Investigator?		
Date of Approval	11-12-18, 02-11-19, 11-01-21		
Date of Last Revision	11-01-21	Version	3.0

In general, the use of animals in research and/or teaching at The University of Texas must be under the direct supervision of a tenured, tenure track, or research faculty with assigned research space at The University of Texas at Austin. The faculty member shall be considered the Principal Investigator (PI) and should be listed as such on the IACUC submissions.

Individuals meeting the definition of a PI as stated are normally considered to have sufficient knowledge to supervise and/or conduct research, which is indicated by their appointment. However, this does not preclude the IACUC from determining at its discretion, that a faculty member lacks sufficient expertise to carry out a research project or certain activities associated with the project.

Research conducted by non-faculty, academic support staff, post-doctoral fellows, staff appointments, graduate students or undergraduate students must be under the direction of a principal investigator, as defined above. In such cases, the PI must certify to the IACUC that the individuals are sufficiently trained to perform the functions assigned. The PI shall retain ultimate responsibility for the work and must be able to work directly with the animals involved in order to provide oversight.

The IACUC acknowledges that situations occur where the highest-ranking individual of responsibility within a project group may not fit the committee’s definition of principal investigator. The IACUC expects that these individuals will seek collaboration and guidance with a faculty member that is knowledgeable in their area of study. In rare cases, the IACUC may approve these individuals to serve as the PI of a project. The decision will be made on a case-by-case basis. Individuals wishing to petition for this consideration should contact the Office of Research Support and Compliance at [IACUC@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:IACUC@austin.utexas.edu) for instructions.

**Procedures for PIs on Extended Leave**

PIs expecting to take an extended leave of absence (i.e. sabbatical) must submit a management plan to the IACUC ([IACUC@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:IACUC@austin.utexas.edu)) if animal work will continue during their leave. The management plan must describe how the PI will continue to provide oversight to personnel and animals on the animal use protocol.

---

Approval Date	Major Change(s) Approved
11/01/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section added regarding procedures for PIs on extended leave</li> </ul>