Responsible Conduct of Animal Research at UTHSCH

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Assistant Director, IACUC Office

http://www.uthouston.edu/animal-research/index.htm
Federal Laws Regulating Animal Research

Federal Laws

Animal Welfare Act
Health Research Extension Act

Federal Agencies

USDA

Federal Regulations And Policies

Animal Welfare Regulations

PHS Policy and Guide
UTHealth Animal Welfare Committee

- Mandated committee
- Appointed by the President
- Composition of membership
- Responsibilities
  - Protocols
  - Inspections
  - Concerns
  - Authority
When Do I Need A Protocol? Covered Animal Activities

- All animal activities performed at UTHSC facilities.
- All animal activities, even off site, where UTHSC funds are used to purchase the research animals.
- Production of custom antibodies
- Tissue harvest protocols with antemortem manipulations
AWC Animal Protocol

- Form available online in iRIS and the final submission must be comprehensive and well-written
- Consult with an AWC Coordinator and a CLAMC veterinarian
- All animals activities must be reviewed and approved by the AWC before they begin
Where Can I go for Help?

- AWC Office
  - Meredith Moore, PhD 500-3545
  - Brid Nic Dhonnchadha, PhD 500-3514

- Statistical Help
  - Rene Flores, PhD 500-3516

- Office Visits for protocol planning or returned response
Resources on the AWC Website

- **Protocol Guidance**
  - Submission deadlines, general information

- **Forms and Resources**
  - Help Documents, Animal Protocol Guidance Tables, Breeding Calculator, CLAMC forms (ordering, badge access)

- **Policies for Animal Research**
  - AWC approved policies – tumor limits, surgery, filming, enrichment, restraint
How Do I Get Help With iRIS?

- From the iRIS home page select the blue bar labeled “My Assistant” and select the folder labeled “Operating Procedures” - a list of all available help documents will appear in the upper left hand quadrant labeled “Animal Research Documentation”
- Call the iRIS Help Line: 713-500-7960, option #2.
- Attend an iRIS training class – information and registration available on the AWC website: [http://www.uth.edu/animal-research/training/registration-for-iris-training---animal-research.htm](http://www.uth.edu/animal-research/training/registration-for-iris-training---animal-research.htm)
- Call the AWC Office 713-500-3625
- Visit the AWC website – Help documents are posted on the “Forms and Other Resources” page: [http://www.uth.edu/animal-research/resources.htm](http://www.uth.edu/animal-research/resources.htm).
- Call the Assistant Director, Dr. Meredith Moore: 713-500-3545
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Species Can I Work With?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-USDA (99%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rat</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Mouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Fish</td>
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<td>- Frog</td>
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<td>- Duck</td>
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<td>- Newt</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Salamander</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USDA covered (1%)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Pig</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Rabbit</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sheep</td>
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<td>- Hamster</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Guinea Pig</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Naked Mole Rat</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Non-Human Primate</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Goat, Ferret, Dog, Cow</td>
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Where Will My Animals Live?
Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care

- Centralized program for animal housing, care, and use
- 40 staff members including 5 veterinarians and 7 veterinary health and surgery technicians
- CLAMC managed resources located in 5 UTHSC buildings: MSE, IMM, UCT, BBS, SCRB3 (shared resource)
- Dr. Mary Robinson, DVM DCLAM – Executive Director
Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care

- Services and resources
  - Animal housing and husbandry
  - Veterinary consultation & care
  - Protocol Planning and model development
  - Surgical resource & support
  - Clinical laboratory
  - Technical assistance
  - Import and export
  - Transportation (SAIF)
  - Whole animal irradiator
Who Is My Veterinarian?

- Dr. Chris Smith – swine, canines
- Dr. Ton Gomez – rodents and aquatics housed at MSB/MSE
- Dr. Julia Goldman – NHP, rabbits, guinea pigs, sheep, biohazards
- Dr. Chris Janssen – rodents and aquatics housed at the IMM
What Classes Do I Need to Complete?

- The PI and all personnel will need to take “Introduction to Laboratory Animal Science”
- Anyone handling animals will need to complete the species specific Methodology course
- Anyone performing surgery will need to complete the Aseptic Surgical Techniques course for either large or small animals.
Training Information

- Coordinated by CLAMC
- Classes are offered twice a month
- Schedule is posted on the AWC website in the Investigator Training tab
- Online - Registration
- One-on-one training for specific or new techniques by request
What Else Do I Need?

- Enroll in the Occupational Health Program
- Complete the annual Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) form online
- Disclose Any Research Conflicts of Interest
- Obtain any applicable safety approvals (Chemical, Biological, Radiation)
  - Note: Use of human stem cells in animals must be reviewed and approved by the ESCRO committee
What Happens After Approval?

- Approval is for three years, but USDA protocols require review on an annual basis.
- Modifications of approved protocols must be approved before implementation and can be submitted using the change request form.
Are There Consequences If I Don’t Follow The Approved Protocol?

- Protocol Deviations are reported to the full committee and investigated by a dedicated subcommittee
  - Retraining, Protocol Modification
  - Suspension: activity, protocol, lab
- Deviations on NIH funded protocols must be reported to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare and all associated funds returned
- Data collected from unapproved activities may not be used in future publications or grant applications
What Needs to Be in My Protocol Application?
Animal Protocol Ethical Considerations: Justification

- Research should be justified
  - Purpose is sufficient to justify the use of animals
  - Model system is the best suited to answer the scientific question
  - Reasonable expectation that the research methods employed will provide valid results
Animal Protocol Ethical Considerations: Species Selection and Quantity

- The animals selected for a procedure should be of an appropriate species and quality and the minimum number required to obtain valid results.
Animal Protocol Ethical Considerations: Proper Use of Animals

- It is imperative to utilize methods that will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress and pain, when consistent with sound scientific practices.
Animal Protocol Ethical Considerations: Painful Procedures

- Procedures that are known to cause more than momentary pain or distress, should be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, and/or anesthesia.
Animal Protocol Ethical Considerations: Unrelieved Pain or Distress

- Animals that would otherwise suffer severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved, should be euthanized at the end of the procedure or if appropriate, during the procedure.
UTHSC-Animal Care and Use Program

Federal Laws

Federal Regulations And Policies

Institutional Official
Dr. George Stancel

Institutional Training
Environ. Safety
Occup. Health

Veterinarian
Dr. Brad Goodwin

Animal Care Program (CLAMC)

Investigator

Research Staff
Good Animal Care = Good Science
Without Animal Research, We Would All Be Guinea Pigs
Required Elements for Animal Research

- Protocol
  - Veterinary consultation required for USDA covered species
- Training
- Occupational Health
- RCOI/FD
- Safety
- ESCRO
- Technology Management