Animal Research at UTHSCH

Bríd Áine Nic Dhonnchadha, PhD
Manager, Research Compliance
Animal Welfare Committee Office

https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research

What is an IACUC?

- The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
  - Ensures that all vertebrate animals used for research are treated ethically and humanely. The focus is animal welfare.
- IACUCs are mandated for institutions receiving Public Health Service (PHS) research dollars
- Known locally as the Animal Welfare Committee or AWC
Animal Care Regulations

• Animal Welfare Act
  – Implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

• Public Health Service (PHS) Policy
  – Implemented by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)

• The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
  – Standards for the care and use of laboratory animals

• AAALAC
  – Voluntary accreditation

• AWC
  – Animal welfare and safety at UTHealth
When is an AWC animal protocol required?

- Covers all animal activities performed at UTHealth facilities
- All animal activities, even off site, where UTHealth funds are used to purchase the research animals
- Production of custom antibodies
- Tissue harvest protocols with antemortem manipulations

Requirements to conduct research

- Approved animal protocol-PI must be a faculty member
- Completion of CLAMC training
- Enrollment in Occupational Health Program
- Approval for the use of chemical, biological or radioactive agents
  - SCRO approval for the use of human stem cell in animals
- Disclosure of Research Conflicts of Interest
- Submission of the annual Financial Disclosure Statement
- Ensure the humane care and treatment of animals
Animal Protocol Submission

https://iris.uth.tmc.edu

Inside UTHealth
University A-Z Directory

This list contains all central research, education, patient care and administration websites at the university. To add a listing to this

- Offices & Services
- Centers & Institutions
- Publications
- Applications

A B C D E F G H I L M N P R S T U V W

Name: [Enter Name]
Campus Location: [Enter Location]
Administrative Technology: [Enter Administrative Technology]

Animal Research

Resources for Animal Researchers
- Investigator Training
- iCARE Resources
- iRIS Links
- Animal Research FAQs

Animal Protocol Submission

https://iris.uth.tmc.edu

Log In

iRIS Integrated Research Information Software

User ID: [Enter User ID]
Password: [Enter Password]

System/Browser Requirements

For iRIS assistance, call 713-800-7660. For password problems, call the Help Desk at 713-486-4048. System timeouts after 120 minutes. SAVE your work.

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Version: 10/01/19443776; Update: 2013/06/14 02:15
AWC Considerations for Animal Use

• The rationale provided for using animals
  • What is the significance of this research that can justify animal use?

• Appropriateness of the species
  • Why use this species? Justification for the number of animals to be used

• Were alternatives considered for this research?
  • Minimize the pain and suffering of the animals used

AWC website resources-Policies for Animal Research
https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research/index.htm

- Non-pharmaceutical Grade Compound (NPG) Policy
- Prolonged Restraint Policy
- Rabbit Environmental Enrichment Policy
  - Rodent Survival Surgery Policy
- Rodent Tail Clipping Policy
- Rodent Toe Clipping Policy
- Rodent Tumor Policy
AWC website resources-Breeding Calculator
https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research/index.htm

Forms and Resources

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<th>Strain</th>
<th>Number of mice needed for experiments</th>
<th>Years remaining in project</th>
<th>Sexes needed</th>
<th>Surplus mice</th>
<th>% of useable genotypes</th>
<th>Average pups per litter</th>
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<th>Total number per strain (incl surplus)</th>
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- Transgenic & Knock-out Mouse Core Facility
- Help with Statistics: Dr. Rene Flores 713-500-3516

Protocol Review Timeline

Application received → Preliminary Review → Revision Cycles → Protocol sent to committee → Revision Cycles → Committee issues decision
AWC website resources
https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research/index.htm

What happens post-approval?

- Post-approval monitoring visits
- Amendments
  - New personnel, new strains, experiments & procedures
- Report adverse events & protocol deviations
- Submission of annual review(s)
  - USDA-covered species
- 3-year renewal
Grant Guidance

Application Information

- AAALAC Accreditation Current Status and Date: Full Accreditation (Unit 000455), March 20, 2018
- Original date of AAALAC accreditation: May 31, 1978
- PHS Assurance Number: A3413-01 or D16-00257, either number is acceptable
- USDA Registration Number: 74-R-0068
- NIH Guidance for Completion of the Vertebrate Animal Section for grants and contracts.
- Description of the Animal Care and Use Resources and Program is provided on the CLAMC link.

Grant Congruency-Does the AWC protocol match the grant?

- Satisfy the requirements of the PHS Policy & NIH grants policy
  - General scope of the work
  - Experimental procedures and endpoints
  - Species
  - Euthanasia Method
  - Approximate number of animals

- Grant animal activities ≠ Animal Protocol Activities
  - Amend protocol to be consistent with grant
  - Inform NIH if procedure will not be conducted as originally proposed
Typical Timeline for Grant Submission

- Grant Submission
- Grant Review Assignment
- Peer review
- Priority Score
- Congruence Review
- Congruence Review
- Grant Award

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

AWC Office: (713) 500-3625
awc@uth.tmc.edu

AWC website: https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research/

CLAMC main line: (713) 500-7728
acare@uth.tmc.edu

iRIS helpline: 713-500-7960, option #2