Animal Research at UTHSCH

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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 or instruction 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

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

• AAALAC
  – Voluntary accreditation
When is an AWC animal protocol required?

- Covers 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

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
Animal Protocol Submission

https://iris.uth.tmc.edu

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
  • Use of cell lines for cell cultures, use of computer simulations,

• Consideration of the “Three Rs”
  • Replacement, Reduction, Refinement
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

| Protocol:  |  |
| Strain: |  |
| Number of experimental mice needed | Colony productivity (pups/week/female) 0.75 |
| Number mice needed for experiments |  |
| Number of years remaining in project | 3 |
| Sexes needed | Both |
| Breeding scheme | Homozygote vs. homozygote |
| Surplus mice (fudge factor) | 10% |
| Number of mice needed (incl. surplus) | Project 0 |
| Number of female breeders needed for production | 0 |
| Number of male breeders needed for production | 0 |
| Total number of breeders needed for production | 0 |
| Number of female breeders needed for replacement | 0 |
| Number of male breeders needed for replacement | 0 |
| Total number of breeders needed for replacement | 0 |
| Mating system | Pair |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF BREEDERS NEEDED | 0 |
| TOTAL SURPLUS MICE PRODUCED | 0 |
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

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February 11, 2019
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 or de novo review

AWC website resources-Grant Guidance
https://inside.uth.edu/animal-research/index.htm

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

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Typical Timeline for Grant Submission

- Feb
- Mar
- Apr
- May
- Jun
- Jul
- Aug
- Sep
- Oct
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