

Center for Biomedical Research / IACUC Standard Operating Procedure – Guidelines

Training and Recertification

A. IACUC Members

The functions and activities of IACUCs are based on two federal laws: The Health Research Extension Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-158) and the 1985 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act, the Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198). In addition, other federal rules may pertain to IACUCs, such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) regulations, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Committee members need to be aware of the legal obligations of their institution, the responsibilities of the IACUC in relation to these institutional commitments, and the regulatory requirements for which they may be personally accountable.

The CBR has put together a training/informational packet for IACUC members. All IACUC members must complete the Compliance and IACUC modules (3) in the AALAS Learning Library (www.aalaslearninglibrary.org) as well as the species specific modules for mice and rats, and online CITI Program courses Essentials for IACUC Members and Post-Approval Monitoring (<https://www.citiprogram.org>).

All new IACUC members receive hard copies of “The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th ed)”, “Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Regulations”, “The IACUC Handbook” 3rd edition, a copy of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (2002), and a copy of the approved UND Animal Welfare Assurance.

All IACUC members are required to be recertified in the Essentials for IACUC members and Post-Approval Monitoring (<https://www.citiprogram.org>) once every three years. Records of certification and recertification of IACUC members will be maintained in the main IACUC office.

B. Principal Investigators/Researchers

All who care for or use animals in research, teaching, or testing must assume responsibility for their well-being. Individual investigators who use animals for research, testing, or educational purposes are by law accountable for conforming to the basic regulations and policies governing such use at the CBR facilities.

Personnel conducting procedures on the species being maintained or studied must be appropriately qualified and trained in those procedures. Principal Investigators and their Personnel must participate in continuing education and training programs to keep themselves abreast of the latest regulations and procedures in animal research.

All Principal Investigators and Personnel involved in animal care, treatment, or use, are required to obtain proof-of-training through the AALAS Learning Library

(www.aalaslearninglibrary.org) “Introduction to Mice” and “Working with Laboratory Mice”, and any other modules applicable, via successful completion of the post-module text. For Principal Investigators, this must occur prior to obtaining access to the animal care facility, and approval of IACUC protocols. For all other Personnel who work with animals, successful completion of training is required prior to activating their access to the animal facility.

Principal Investigators must be recertified and obtain proof-of-training through the AALAS Learning Library (www.aalaslearninglibrary.org) “Introduction to Mice” and “Working with Laboratory Mice”, and any other applicable modules, once every five years.

Personnel involved in animal care, treatment, or use must be recertified and obtain proof of training through the AALAS Learning Library (www.aalaslearninglibrary.org) “Introduction to Mice” and “Working with Laboratory Mice”, and any other applicable modules applicable, once every three years. Records pertaining to the completion of these training activities will be maintained in the main CBR office.

In addition, during the annual post-approval monitoring visit, the Attending Veterinarian will conduct group training for all personnel involved with projects, procedures involving pain and stress and/or invasive procedures. The training will cover up-to-date facility SOPs involving basic care and maintenance of animals, handling, restraining, sample collection, anesthesia, analgesia, euthanasia of laboratory animals and methods that minimize the number of animals required to obtain valid results and that limit animal pain or distress. Records pertaining to annual post-approval monitoring and training activities will be maintained in the main IACUC office.

C. Laboratory Animal Technicians

The Animal Technicians are appropriately trained and qualified to perform their duties and conduct activities. They are made aware of the Animal Welfare Act and the PHS policies on the humane care and use of animals in research. This involves an appropriate understanding of the federal regulations and university policies and procedures on animal care and use. For additional information; see the Laboratory Animal Technician Standard Operating Procedures.

All Laboratory Animal Technicians employed in the CBR and involved in animal care, treatment, or use, are required obtain annual proof of training of two courses offered through the AALAS Learning Library (www.aalaslearninglibrary.org). Courses pertaining to “Introduction to Mice” and “Working with Laboratory Mice”, and any other modules applicable to their job description will be applicable. Further, CBR staff will be encouraged to participate in AALAS technician certification program and will participate in at least two AALAS webinars annually. Records pertaining to the completion and recertification of these training activities will be maintained in the main CBR office.

In addition, the Attending Veterinarian or Biological Safety Officer, when needed, will conduct group and individual training sessions if new projects, procedures involving

pain and stress and/or invasive procedures are introduced to the facilities. The training materials include: instruction manual containing basic care and maintenance of animals, laws and regulations, biology, handling, restraining, sample collection, anesthesia, analgesia, euthanasia of laboratory animals and methods that minimize the number of animals required to obtain valid results and that limit animal pain or distress. Records pertaining to the completion of these training activities will be maintained in the main CBR office.

D. Attending Veterinarian

The Attending Veterinarian will have a Doctor of **Veterinary Medicine**, and be certified in and have training and experience in laboratory animal science and medicine.

In addition, the Attending Veterinarian must complete the Compliance and IACUC modules (3) in the AALAS Learning Library (www.aalaslearninglibrary.org) as well as the species specific modules for mice and rats. Records of certification and recertification of the Attending Veterinarian will be maintained in the main IACUC office.