



University of
Pittsburgh

Institutional Animal Care and Use
Office of Research Protections

SOP: Accepting IACUC Reviews from Other Institutions

EFFECTIVE ISSUE DATE: March 19, 2012

REVISION DATE(s): January 25, 2021

Scope

There are many circumstances that involve partnerships between collaborating institutions or relationships between institutional animal care programs. OLAW and APHIS agree that review of a research project or evaluation of a program or facility by more than one recognized IACUC is not a federal requirement. This policy defines when the University of Pittsburgh will accept another institution's IACUC approval and/or require submission to the university's IACUC.

Procedures

When animal work is performed at another institution with funding administered through the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Pittsburgh IACUC will accept the other institution's review and approval of the work if:

1. the performing institution has a PHS Assurance;
2. the performing institution has a USDA registration;
3. the performing institution is AAALAC accredited **or**, for Canadian institutions, certified by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC);
4. the University of Pittsburgh IACUC receives a copy of the **approved IACUC protocol** *and* the **current protocol approval letter** from the performing institution.
5. All submitted documentation must be in English. Third-party translations of all documents not originally in English must be provided.

If all of the above requirements are met, the Principal Investigator (PI) will be issued a letter stating that the University of Pittsburgh IACUC accepts the other institutions review and approval of the work, and the work may proceed.

If requirements 1 and/or 2 are not met, the work may not proceed.

If requirement 3 is not met and the other institution is *not* located in the United States, the PI may request an exemption from this requirement (see below).

If the other institution will not make the approved IACUC protocol available, and the work to be performed is a one-time service and not an ongoing research project, the current approval letter alone may be accepted.

Requests for Exemption to AAALAC-Accreditation Requirement

Requests for an exemption to requirement 3 (AAALAC Accreditation) may be considered under exceptional and well-justified circumstances. Because the IACUC cannot guarantee that any exemption request will be granted, such requests **must** be made and approved by the IACUC before any collaborative arrangements with the performing institution are made or applied for, including those that are proposed in a grant proposal.

In addition to the requirements outlined above, requests for an exemption may be granted *only* if:

- a. the University of Pittsburgh does not own the animals.
- b. the University of Pittsburgh IACUC receives a letter from the University of Pittsburgh faculty member sponsor formally requesting an exemption from this policy. This letter must explain in detail why work must be done specifically at the performing institution.
- c. for foreign institutions, the University of Pittsburgh IACUC receives a description of the country's animal welfare laws and regulations as they pertain to animal research (links to government websites are acceptable if in English) **and** a description of the official certifications and accreditations the performing institutions has attained (with appropriate documentation of each).

If all submitted documents are deemed acceptable, the request for exemption will be considered at the next IACUC meeting.