Animal Care & Use Program
Policies & Procedures

Use of OHSU Research Core Facilities

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BACKGROUND

The IACUC must review and approve the use of live vertebrate animals to produce antibodies and to conduct artificial reproductive experiments and the production of transgenic animals. When these activities are a part of an individual investigator's protocol, they will be reviewed along with all other parts of that protocol. When these activities are done in an OHSU research core facility, they will be reviewed as part of that core facility's animal use protocol. OHSU Research Core Facilities include the Antibody Core, ART Core, Transgenic Core and any other University shared resource that uses research animals

SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the steps for receiving IACUC approval when OHSU research core facilities are used for animal work.

I. POLICY

A. All animals used and maintained by OHSU must be included in an active, approved IACUC protocol. OHSU research core facilities will have an IACUC-approved protocol for their work involving the use of live vertebrate animals.
B. If an OHSU research core facility is being used to conduct all of the animal work for an investigator, approval for that work will be related to the core's protocol.
C. If an OHSU research core facility is being used to conduct animal work in addition to other animal work contained within the investigator's protocol, approval for that work is related to both the core's protocol and the investigator's protocol.
D. If custom services involving animal use are conducted by an external organization (commercial or academic) for a project funded by NIH, the external organization must have an Animal Welfare Assurance from the Office of Laboratory animal Welfare (OLAW).

II. PROCEDURES

A. When an investigator is using an OHSU research core facility to do all of the animal work for the investigator, the core facility will submit a modification to its protocol for IACUC review and approval. The modification must include the investigator's grant supporting the work (if any), the work being performed (antigen to be used for antibody production, procedure for assisted reproduction, details of gene insertion, etc.), and a request to increase animal numbers if the proposed activity exceeds the core facility's pre-approved number of animals.
B. When the core facility is performing animal work in addition to that being done in the investigator's protocol, the investigator will include in his/her protocol a general description of the work to be done by the core. The core facility that is performing the work should be clearly identified in the investigator's protocol. Before the work begins in the core facility, the core will submit a

modification to its protocol that provides details of any new animal-related procedure(s) as stated in II.A.

C. When an investigator requests custom services from an external organization in association with an OHSU IACUC protocol, the IACUC office will verify the animal welfare assurance of the external organization using the listing of assured institutions at (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm).

D. Animals must be assigned to the protocol where the work is being conducted.

DEFINITIONS

OHSU Research Core Facility: Includes the Antibody Core, ART Core, Transgenic Core and any other University shared resource that uses research animals.

AUTHORITY

PHS IV(C)1: In order to approve proposed research projects or proposed significant changes in ongoing research projects, the IACUC shall conduct a review of those components related to the care and use of animals and determine that the proposed research projects are in accordance with this Policy.
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/references/phspol.htm#USGovPrinciples

GUIDANCE NIH FAQS

Does the PHS Policy apply to the production of custom antibodies, or to the purchase of surgically modified animals?
The generation of custom antibodies is considered an activity involving vertebrate animals and covered by PHS Policy. Antibodies are considered customized if produced using antigen(s) provided by or at the request of the investigator (i.e., not purchased off-the-shelf). An organization producing custom antibodies for a grantee must have or obtain an Assurance, or be included as a component of the grantee's Assurance. In addition, the applicant must provide the date (verification) of project-specific IACUC approval for the production of the antibodies.

The same guidance applies if surgery is conducted in response to a specific, custom request (as opposed to animals previously modified and available prior to the request). An organization conducting custom surgery for a grantee must have or obtain an Assurance, or be included as a component of the grantee's Assurance. In addition, the grantee must provide the date (verification) of project-specific IACUC approval for conducting the surgery.

When both the grantee and subcontractor hold Assurances, some latitude is allowed in determining which IACUC will review the proposal. However, the grantee always retains primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with PHS Policy.
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#a2