

Grant and IACUC Protocol Congruency Review

Several funding agencies including, but not limited to the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Veteran Affairs, and United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture require that a recipient institution conduct a congruency review between the submitted grant proposal and an approved IACUC application. The purpose of the review is to ensure all activities outlined in the grant application have been approved by the IACUC. This congruency review must be conducted prior to certification to the funding agency that all animal activities are covered by an IACUC approved protocol.

Oakland University has established an IACUC protocol congruency review committee to meet this regulatory requirement. The committee is comprised of 3 regular scientific members of the IACUC and the Director of Regulatory Support in the Research Office. The committee will be constituted to ensure representation across several scientific disciplines to provide the requisite scientific expertise to conduct the congruency review. Individual committee members will be assigned a congruency review based upon the nature of the research.

The Director of Regulatory Support in the Research Office should be notified once a Principal Investigator receives notification that he/she has received a fundable score by the funding agency. The Director of Regulatory Support will conduct a preliminary review and assign the study to the appropriate IACUC member who will conduct a side by side comparison between the grant proposal and IACUC application in the following areas:

- Specific aims and general scope of work
- Species of animals
- Gender of animals
- Procedures
- Agents (Drugs, Dosages and Routes of Administration)
- Experimental Endpoints
- Methods of Euthanasia

Principal Investigators may submit one IACUC application for each grant proposal or a single IACUC application may include more than 1 grant proposal. If the Principal Investigator chooses the latter option, an addendum must be submitted with the IACUC application outlining which animal activities are described in a particular grant proposal.

If discrepancies are noted between the grant proposal and the IACUC application, the Principal Investigator will be contacted to resolve the discrepancy. In some cases, a notation in the protocol file will be adequate. In other cases, an amendment or new IACUC protocol submission may be required. Any significant changes in scope also require prior written approval from the funding agency.

Amendments to existing IACUC applications or submission of new IACUC applications will be reviewed at the next convened IACUC meeting.