New IACUC Training Requirement

One of Iowa State University’s responsibilities as a research facility is to ensure that all personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties. To help fulfill this responsibility, effective January 1, 2009, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will begin requiring that PIs and key personnel have completed appropriate training before approval of protocols will be released.

Specifically, PIs and key personnel will be required to complete the online training course “Working with the IACUC.” More information and a link to the course site can be found on the Office of Research Assurances website (www.compliance.iastate.edu) under the IACUC “Training” tab.

Additional details about the training requirements are included in the “Supervised Staff Training Document,” which is also located on the web page referenced above.

Guiding Principles for IRB Members & Investigators

The Belmont Report, an essential reference for institutional review boards, includes principles that are considered the quintessential requirements for the ethical conduct of research involving human subjects.

In order to receive federal funding, ISU also assures the Department of Health and Human Services, through a document called a federal wide assurance (FWA), that all of the university’s activities related to human subjects research will be guided by the ethical principles of the Belmont. Our FWA requires that the Belmont Principles, noted below, are followed regardless of funding source:

1. Respect for persons, which requires that researchers carry out the process of informed consent and protect subject privacy

2. Beneficence, which requires that competent investigators design ethical research, protect human subjects from risk, and make continuing assessments of the risk/benefit ratio

3. Justice, which requires that subjects be fairly selected and that the benefits and burdens of the research be distributed fairly

“Because of the significance of the investigator’s role in protecting human subjects, all institutional review boards are obligated to ensure that investigators conducting a research study are qualified to conduct a study, to uphold the Belmont principles and to ensure compliance with the regulations and the requirements of the IRB approved protocol.” (Jeffrey A. Cooper & Pamela Turner, IRB Guidebook, pg. 313)

Biosafety Videos Online

The Office of Research Assurances recently added four new educational videos to our website, www.compliance.iastate.edu. The videos describe the procedures animal handlers should follow when working at animal biosafety level 1, 2 or 3.

Links to the videos can be found under the Institutional Biosafety Committee’s “Guidance & Education” tab and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee’s “Training” tab.