New IACUC Submission Requirement

Beginning March 1, 2010, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will require principal investigators to include copies of federal grant proposals along with any new applications for IACUC approval. This requirement will enable the IACUC to comply with the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy and the NIH Grants Policy requirement to provide certification that any proposed research supported by a federal department or agency has been reviewed and approved by the IACUC.

In other words, the IACUC is responsible for ensuring that the information in the application for approval is congruent with what is stated in the grant proposal. If there are discrepancies between the two documents, the investigator will be asked to provide clarification and/or corrections. This form of review will also allow the flexibility necessary to accommodate changes in the federal grant proposal due to budget reductions, in the scope of the project, or for which the investigator has obtained the program officer’s approval.

Clarification on IRB Training

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) recently approved a document that helps to clarify who must take the online training for research involving human subjects. While the requirement for the online training was implemented several years ago, previously there were no clear guidelines as to who must obtain the training. The document also gives more complete definitions of the terms “principal investigator” and “key personnel” to help researchers determine whether or not their staff needs training. This new document is titled “Persons Required to Obtain Human Subjects Training” and you’ll find a link to it on the IRB Training web page.

Consent Form for Animals in Research

Two versions of a jointly developed template were recently posted on the IACUC Forms page of the Office for Responsible Research website. The “Owner Consent Document Template” (in original and Q&A formats) will be used by Veterinary Medical Center investigators to obtain informed consent from owners prior to enrollment of client-owned animals in a research project.

Investigators should submit an unsigned copy of the form with their application for IACUC approval for documentation purposes. Investigators should give each animal owner a signed copy of the form for their files and should also retain a signed copy in their own files for three years after the close of the study.

Quick Reminder

Please remember to check our website for the latest versions of our compliance forms. These forms are updated frequently so they provide the information that reviewers need in order to make an approval determination.