IACUC at MSU

montclair.edu/iacuc
iacuc@Montclair.edu
What is the purpose of an IACUC?

• Purpose of the IACUC is to make sure that Montclair State University and the covered entities are in compliance with the Animal Welfare Regulations
Who is the IACUC?

• Committee composed of:
  • Faculty/staff members of MSU
  • A veterinarian
  • A community member unaffiliated with MSU

• IACUC administratively run by Research Compliance staff

• Works in cooperation with Laboratory Animal Resources, Vivarium, and Occupational Health
What are the functions of an IACUC?

1. Review animal program
2. Inspect animal facilities
3. Report results of 1 & 2 to Institutional Official (IO)
4. Review animal care and use concerns
5. Make recommendations to IO about any aspect of animal program, facilities, or personnel training
6. Review and approve[...] proposed animal activities
7. Review and approve[...] proposed changes to ongoing animal activities
8. Suspend an activity involving animals due to noncompliance

from J.G. Collins, Yale University, 05/2018
Who needs IACUC approval?

• Any individual on campus anticipating research with vertebrate animals

• Approval must be obtained **before** research begins!

• Research with vertebrate animals includes work done in a laboratory setting as well as in the wild
  • This includes “Observation Only,” in which researcher does not manipulate the environment of the animals in any way
    • Submitted for approval via “IACUC Observation Only Form”

• All other protocols submitted for approval via “Animal Care and Use Protocol Form”
How long does it take to get IACUC approval?

• Highly dependent on responsiveness of researcher

• Review process:

1. Form submittal and administrative review

2. Preliminary review by committee
   1. Can be determined to require full-committee review, or
   2. Can be determined to be eligible for designated reviewer procedure

3. Receipt of protocol outcome:
   1. Approval
   2. Pilot approval
   3. Disapproval
What other forms will need to be submitted?

• Any necessary permits required (e.g., state, etc.)
• Occupational Health Screening Form
  • Required to promote safety of animal researchers
• Annual renewal form
  • IACUC staff will send courtesy reminder 45-60 days prior to expiration
• Modifications for any protocol changes following approval
Principles of Animal Research: The 3 “R’s”

• Replace
  • The use of animals whenever possible
  • E.g., with digital models

• Reduce
  • The number of animals needed to a minimum

• Refine
  • Tests to cause the least possible distress to animal
How is pain/distress quantified?

• USDA pain classification levels
  • B- animals being bred or held for research, but not yet involved in protocols
  • C- animals used for teaching or research in which no pain, distress, or pain-relieving medication is required
  • D- pain and/or distress involved and is mitigated by pain-relieving drugs
  • E- pain and/or distress is involved and administration of pain-relieving drugs would negatively impact procedures, results, or interpretation
What else will I need to get IACUC approval?

• CITI training for lab and field researchers
  • Citiprogram.org

• Documented literature search to indicate animal research is warranted

• You should have planned and prepared:
  • Humane endpoints for the animals
  • Actions to take when animals are found sick or dead
  • Source of animals (e.g., vendor, breeder, etc.)
  • All other details regarding your protocol
What do I do if I have an animal welfare concern?

• Use the anonymous reporting form on the IACUC website
• Any individual can report a concern
• Include your personal information if you want to be notified of actions taken as a result of the report
• New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection Act prohibits retaliation from Montclair State University
• If immediate veterinary care is required, the veterinarian and IO will be notified
Why do I need to report my health information to work with animals as an affiliate of MSU?

- To ensure safety and welfare of MSU faculty, staff, or students, conducting professional or scholarly research on or off campus
- Goal is to avoid, control, or eliminate hazards
- This information is **not** submitted to or maintained by the IACUC
- Clearing for animal research falls under jurisdiction of the Employee Occupational Health program
- Individuals can also go to their own health care provider but are required to provide documentation
Who do I contact for help?

- iacuc@montclair.edu
- Mylka Biascochea
  - Compliance Coordinator (IRB/IACUC)
  - biascocheam@montclair.edu
  - 973-655-3021
- Hila Berger
  - Director, Research Compliance and Regulatory Programs
  - bergerh@montclair.edu
  - 973-655-7781
- Lisa Hazard
  - IACUC Chair
  - hazard@montclair.edu
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- Laura Conour
  - Attending Veterinarian
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