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| Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee | | UNT Health |
| Title: IACUC PI Eligibility Criteria for UNT Health Employees | | |
| Document #: 061 | Version #: 01 | |
| Approved by IACUC Date: October 28, 2025 | | |

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines to determine the Principal Investigator (PI) eligibility criteria for UNT Health employees to serve as PI on an IACUC protocol.
- b. The Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR) requires all persons involved in animal use to be “qualified to perform their duties” and assigns responsibility to the research institution for providing training and instruction to these personnel (see Title 9 of the CFR, Chapter 1 Subchapter A § 2.32(a)-Personnel qualifications).
- c. The AWAR also defines the PI as “an employee of a research facility, or other person associated with a research facility, responsible for a proposal to conduct research and for the design and implementation of research involving animals.” (see Title 9 Chapter 1 Subchapter A § 1.1-Definitions.)

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. IACUC PIs must demonstrate sufficient knowledge and experience with the research model and animal species involved. This may include experience with animal handling, experimental procedures, and relevant regulatory requirements.
- b. Under the Animal Welfare regulations, the responsibilities of the PI include, but are not limited to: consulting the Attending Veterinarian on painful/distressful procedures, considering alternatives to painful/distressful procedures, and providing the appropriate medications for procedures causing more than momentary or slight pain/ distress unless withholding is scientifically justified in writing (see Title 9 Chapter 1 Subchapter A § 1.1-Definitions & § 2.31(d)(1)- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.)

C. PROCEDURES

- a. PIs on an IACUC protocols must be individuals with sufficient authority, accountability, experience, and expertise to oversee the research involving animals. This also includes ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the research, including animal welfare, personnel training, and compliance with all applicable regulations and policies.
- b. At UNT Health, individuals who are eligible to serve as a PI on an IACUC protocol include:
 - i. Faculty member
 - ii. Department or Division Director-level individuals whose work inherently involves the care and use of animals.
- c. Students, postdoctoral fellows, visiting faculty and other university staff are not eligible to be listed as the PI, but can be included as Co-Investigators or study personnel under the supervision of the PI, as applicable and appropriate.

- d. PIs need to be employees of UNT Health.
- e. PI eligibility criteria established by the IACUC may differ from PI eligibility criteria used by other UNT Health units.
- f. Note: The IACUC may review or assess/reassess PI eligibility for any protocol, at any time. Acknowledgement of an IACUC submission or completion of a pre-review by the IACUC office does not necessarily imply that PI status has been verified or that a protocol will complete formal review and approval.

D. REFERENCES

- a. Title 9 of the CFR, Chapter 1 Subchapter A § [2.32\(a\)-Personnel qualifications](#)
- b. Title 9 Chapter 1 Subchapter A § [1.1-Definitions](#)
- c. Title 9 Chapter 1 Subchapter A § [2.31\(d\)\(1\)- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee](#)
- d. LAB ANIMAL | VOL 47 | JULY 2018 | 171–173 |
 - i. Who Gets to be a PI? <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41684-018-0089-5>
 - ii. A Word from APHIS and OLAW <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41684-018-0093-9>