UMKC IACUC POLICY

Studies Involving Death as an Endpoint

The UMKC IACUC is obligated to provide policies that notify and train personnel concerning the appropriate techniques, equipment, and agents for performing appropriate procedures to ensure humane care and use of laboratory animals.

Policy:

This policy applies to studies that use animals and that require death, other than by euthanasia, as a necessary endpoint for the hypothesis being tested.

Information required to be provided in the protocol review form by the PI for IACUC review:

- A written justification for death as an experimental endpoint that includes a description of alternative, non-lethal endpoints considered and why they cannot be used.

- A written justification for the numbers of animals exposed to the probability of death as an experimental endpoint that includes clear explanation that the number is the minimum necessary to accomplish the experimental goals.

- Define opportunities to administer drugs to animals that may be subject to death as an endpoint to relieve pain or distress. If such drugs may not be used, a written explanatory justification for withholding them must be provided.

- The intervals and frequency at which the animals subject to death as an endpoint will be observed by personnel skilled in recognizing signs of illness or injury, and behavioral abnormalities. At a minimum, animals must be observed at least twice daily, in the early morning and late afternoon, including weekends and holidays.

- A detailed description of clinical signs that are anticipated to occur prior to death.

- Actions that will be taken to minimize pain or distress other than drugs, such as removal from group housing or providing special feed and watering methods to facilitate access to food and water.

- A description of the records that will be maintained of observations of rodents that may be subject to death as an experimental endpoint.

Additional requirements:

- LARC staff must be notified of experiments in progress that may result in deaths. The cages of the specific animals that are subject to death as an experimental endpoint must be labeled to indicate that death of the animal is expected, and the approximate time frame in which death is expected.

- Dead animals must be removed from cages as soon as possible.
Revisions to the Policy:
This policy is intended to be flexible and readily adaptable to changes in regulatory requirements. It is reviewed as part of the semiannual program reviews to assess whether it is appropriate. It will be changed as experience shows that a certain approach is not effective or suggests a better alternative. The UMKC IACUC has the authority to amend this policy.

Policy Approval:
The UMKC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee has reviewed and approved this policy as attested by the signature of the Committee Chairperson.

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Committee Chairperson                     Date