

GUIDANCE FOR SCIENTIFIC MERIT REVIEW

Purpose:

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) does not review proposals for scientific merit but does require that each proposal be reviewed and approved for scientific merit before IACUC approval is given for animals to be used. This review may be conducted by the **Departmental Review Committee (DRC)** of the Principal Investigator (PI), the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** or one of the agencies on the **List of Funding Agencies That Conduct Acceptable Scientific Merit Review** found below. Protocols reviewed by the Full Committee must include documentation of current scientific merit review and approval from one of the listed agencies or the appropriate DRC.

Departmental Review:

If the study is funded by departmental funds, industry or any other source that does not conduct a peer-review to determine funding a Departmental Review Committee provides the scientific merit review. The PI must document this by submitting the Scientific Merit Review Memorandum to the IACUC, which includes signatures from two departmental review committee members.

Agencies That Conduct Acceptable Scientific Merit Review:

If the study is NIH (or grant) funded, the PI must provide a copy of the vertebrate animals section of the NIH grant application and a copy of the grant award letter. The NIH requires the IACUC to perform a protocol grant comparison to ensure that the activity in the grant matches the protocol. The PI must provide the grant number and title on the front page of the IACUC protocol.

Note: If the proposal has been submitted to the NIH and scientific review is pending, the PI may submit the application "as is" for review by the IACUC, but approval to release animals will not be granted until the results of the NIH review are received in the IACUC office. Alternatively, PIs with pending NIH grants may submit a completed Scientific Merit Review Memorandum to the IACUC.

If grant funding is not awarded a Scientific Merit Review Form from a DRC review must be submitted to the IACUC office before IACUC approval is given for animals to be used.

IACUC List of Funding Agencies That Conduct Acceptable Scientific Merit Review:

To propose adding a funding agency to the IACUC List of Funding Agencies That Conduct Acceptable Scientific Merit Review, send the agency name (and address, if available) by email to the IACUC office at umkciacuc@umkc.edu

IACUC List of Funding Agencies That Conduct Acceptable Scientific Merit Review

- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- American Heart Association (AHA)
- KC Area Life Science Institute
- Children’s Mercy Hospital (CMH)
- St. Luke’s Hospital Foundation
- UMKC Faculty Research Board
- UM Research Board
- Bright Focus Foundation (BFF)
- Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)
- AFAR
- Frontiers Clinical & Translational Science Institute