

Guidance for Scientific Merit Review

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

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 **NIH** or one of the other agencies on the **List of Funding Agencies That Conduct Acceptable Scientific Merit Review**. Full Committee applications must include documentation of current scientific merit review and approval from one of the listed agencies or from 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 as a means 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, 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. 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 IACUC, but approval to release animals will not be granted until the results of NIH review are received in the IACUC office. Alternatively, PI's 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

- NIH
- NSF
- DOD
- Institute for the Study of Aging
- American Heart Association
- KC Area Life Science Institute
- Children's Mercy Hospital
- St. Luke's Hospital Foundation
- UMKC Faculty Research Board
- UM Research Board
- Bright focus Foundation (BFF)
- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- AFAR