

Conflict of Interest – Member Policy

Policy

Federal regulations do not permit an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) member to participate in the review of research in which he/she has a conflicting interest, except to provide information requested by the IACUC. This requirement helps to ensure that financial or other personal interests do not compromise the welfare of animals used in research or the objectivity of the IACUC review process.

This policy describes when IACUC members are considered to have conflicts of interest and the procedures that must be followed for disclosure and IACUC review of research when such conflicts exist.

Procedure

Conflicts of interest must not compromise the welfare of research animals or the integrity of the research review process. Federal animal care and use regulations do not provide flexibility in the management of an IACUC member's conflicting interest. Specifically, **the regulations require that IACUC members must not participate in the review of research in which they have a potentially conflicting interest**, except to provide specific information requested by the IACUC. When an IACUC member has a conflict of interest, the member should notify the IACUC Chair and/or IACUC Administrative Office. Any conflicted member cannot participate in the IACUC review or approval except to provide information, if requested by the IACUC. If the Chair is the member with the conflict of interest, he/she must notify the Vice-Chair and/or Administrative Office of the IACUC of the conflict of interest. Members who have a conflict of interest cannot be counted toward a quorum and cannot vote.

Other possible examples of conflict of interest include cases where:

- A member is involved in a potentially competing research program;
- Access to funding or intellectual information may provide an unfair competitive advantage;
- A member's personal biases may interfere with his or her impartial judgment;
- A member has entered into a financial arrangement with the sponsor or agent of the sponsor, whereby the outcome of the study could influence the value of the economic interest;
- A member is part of the research group;
- A member conducting the Scientific Merit Review of the protocol.

Applicable Regulations

1. Animal Welfare Act (AWA, Public Law 89-544, 7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.)
2. Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR, 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, §2.31 (d)(2))
3. Health Research Extension Act of 1985 and Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
4. National Research Council Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, Eighth Edition. National Academy of Sciences, 2011
5. The Federation of Animal Science Societies Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 2010

Applicable To:

All UMKC faculty and IACUC members

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.

Committee Chairperson

Date