

RESPONSIBILITIES OF INVESTIGATORS AND STAFF WHEN CONDUCTING RESEARCH INVOLVING ANIMALS AT MMRI

Individual staff members who are involved with the care and use of animals in research are expected to study and review this handbook and to acknowledge their acceptance of the responsibilities therein.

Individuals are accountable by law to comply with the rules and regulations of the applicable statutes. Individuals are also accountable to MMRI to conform with the policies and guidelines adopted by this institution. These regulations and policies cover:

- a. the acquisition, care and use of animals
- b. efforts to minimize animal pain and distress
- c. the training of personnel using animals
- d. consideration of alternatives to animal use

All scientific staff at MMRI who use animals must be aware of these regulations and policies.

Investigators must consider the following questions when planning each protocol or beginning any research that might use animal subjects:

- a. Have I sought for and seriously considered methods that would obviate the use of animals?
- b. Am I proposing to use the most appropriate species of animal?
- c. Does my protocol use the least number of animals possible (yet not so few as to render results insignificant)?
- d. Is my proposed use of animals in accord with the principles of humane treatment?
- e. Have I consulted with the Veterinarian when planning procedures resulting in pain to the animals?
- f. Have I sought for and seriously considered refinements in techniques and procedures that will reduce the ethical costs associated with using animals in research?

Animals are used for the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of therapeutic agents at MMRI. "US Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training" governs all animal use and care at MMRI. Our employees understand their ethical and scientific obligations with respect to animals. This policy sets forth the guidelines and procedures by which MMRI assures compliance with regulations applying to animal use and care

MMRI recognizes that the moral status of animals is the subject of a heated philosophical debate, characterized by widely divergent views. MMRI also recognizes the relevance, value and significance of quality animal care and the importance of humane treatment of animals. These principles place an obligation on humans to use animals for research only when absolutely necessary and to minimize any suffering incurred by the research.

Policy

Humane care, use, and treatment of animals for instruction, research, or related purpose is the responsibility of all members of the Institute. It is the policy of MMRI to comply with federal, state, Institute and other regulatory requirements as they relate to the acquisition, care, use and treatment of animals in the performance of authorized research. The Veterinarian Consultant, in association with the IACUC, must provide assurance to a number of agencies (i.e. FDA, USDA, OPRRJPHS and AAALAC) that animals in all projects and activities are receiving humane care, and are used and treated in accordance with professionally acceptable standards. Accordingly, the IACUC has been charged with oversight and review of all company animal care and use laboratories and procedures.

In order to provide for the adequate discharge of this responsibility, all proposed projects or activities involving animals must be reviewed by the IACUC.

Animal users must follow the procedures and guidelines set forth by the IACUC and accept the responsibility that all animal use will be in accordance with the above-referenced policies and regulations, and carried out with deliberate consideration of the statement on ethics, care and use of animals in Section I of this handbook.

I _____ understand my ethical and scientific obligations with respect to animals. I have read and understood the MMRI Policy and Procedure Manual for the Care and Use of Animals in Research and agree with all policies which set forth the guidelines and procedures by which MMRI assures compliance with regulations applying to animal use and care.

Signature

Date