

Background and Purpose

The IACUC oversees the use of animals in research and teaching by formally reviewing animal use protocols and granting approval prior to the work commencing. Two valid methods of protocol review are Full Committee Review (FCR) and Designated Member Review (DMR). In NOT-OD-09-035, the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) formally recognized the use of DMR subsequent to FCR for review of modifications needed to secure approval. This practice also meets Animal Welfare Act (AWA) standards.

Policy

When modifications to a protocol are required to secure approval after review by the full committee (FCR), the committee may vote to allow the subsequent review of the submitted modifications via the DMR process. Any member may request at any time to see the revised protocol and/or call for FCR. If review of submitted modifications is assigned to more than one designated reviewer, the reviewers must be unanimous in their decision. When the IACUC uses DMR, the approval date is the date that the designated member(s) approve the study.

In order to comply with USDA and PHS Guidance, all IACUC members must sign a statement agreeing that a quorum of members at a convened meeting may decide by unanimous vote to use DMR subsequent to FCR. This policy will be reviewed and acknowledged annually at a convened IACUC meeting.

References

NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare. (2009). *Guidance to IACUCs Regarding Use of Designated Member Review (DMR) for Animal Study Proposal Review Subsequent to Full Committee Review (FCR)* (NOT-OD-09-035). <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-035.html>

NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare. (2015). *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (Publication No. 15-8013). <https://olaw.nih.gov/policies-laws/phs-policy.htm>