

**POLICY REGARDING ELIGIBILITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

PURPOSE:

This document serves to outline the eligibility requirements for serving as a Principal Investigator on a Liberty University animal use protocol.

POLICY:

Serving as the PI entitles the investigator to certain rights and responsibilities.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to serve as PI for an IACUC approved protocol, the person must be available to devote sufficient time and attention to the study to ensure proper conduct. In most cases, a Principal Investigator on an IACUC protocol will be a full-time member of Liberty University faculty or a senior research appointee. This may include the following titles:

- Professor/Clinical Professor
- Associate Professor/Clinical Associate Professor
- Assistant Professor/Clinical Assistant Professor
- University Professor
- Senior Scientist
- Research Scientist
- Principal Research Scientist
- Veterinarians

The IACUC will also consider the following roles as an approved PI on protocols primarily related to animal use in teaching and demonstration that will be no higher than USDA Pain Category C:

- Instructor
- Lecturer/Senior Lecturer
- Post-Doctoral Student (Supervising faculty must be listed as a co-investigator)
- Research Associate

The following will not ordinarily be allowed to serve as a PI on an animal use protocol; however, the IACUC will consider these requests on a case by case basis:

- Emeritus faculty
- Visiting/Adjunct faculty
- Courtesy or other appointments
- Laboratory Technicians

While not eligible to serve as a Principal Investigator on animal use protocols, Liberty University students may be listed as co-researchers.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The PI has primary responsibility for all aspects of the protection of animal species used in research, including compliance with all Federal and University policies and procedures.

Additionally, it is the sole responsibility of the PI to ensure that all research involved in a PI's project also comply with said regulations, policies, procedures, and guidelines. The PI must also make sure that no research staff or consultants perform research tasks if there is likely to be a conflict of interest, unless the conflict has been previously reported to the IACUC and proper safeguards have been approved.

RIGHTS

- Applications shall be reviewed by the IACUC in accordance with the ethical principles described in the Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use.
- When protocols are submitted, the IACUC shall review the applications as specified in the policy, barring any unforeseen and/or insurmountable problems.
- All decisions of the IACUC shall be conveyed to the PI in writing (electronically or otherwise).
- The PI may consult with the IACUC Coordinator, Chair, or designee if the PI is unclear about the rationale for its decisions or if any questions arise at any time related to the application or approved protocol.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PI UPON LEAVING THE UNIVERSITY

When a PI plans to leave the university and continue the research activities at another institution, he or she must notify the IACUC in writing. This will allow the IACUC to close the active research file. The PI is responsible for obtaining IACUC approval at the new institution. If the research project will continue at Liberty University, the PI must submit a completed Change of PI form to the LU IACUC office. Otherwise, the protocol must be closed in a manner consistent with the approved method and LU policy.

In instances where the PI has departed the University without closing or transferring the protocol, refer to the "Policy Regarding Protocol Closure or Transfer in the Event of a Principal Investigator's Absence" for further guidance.