

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND RESEARCH

Policy Number: 604GS

Effective Date: 6/1/16

Revised Date: 6/26/17; 11/09/2020

Scope

This Policy on Institutional Animal Care and Research applies to faculty, staff, predoctoral researchers, summer scholars and applicants ("Covered Individuals") of The Graduate School of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research ("The School").

Purpose

SIMR has formed an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), an oversight committee appointed by the President and CEO of SIMR and approved by the Department of Health and Human Services, to oversee the use of animals in research and to ensure that all research activities involving animals are conducted in compliance with federal, state, and Institute rules and regulations. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and standards for review of all animal research, irrespective of location or source of funding, in order to foster high ethical standards in the conduct of research and to assure that uniform criteria are applied to research involving animals.

The School is included in the Stowers Group of Companies ("SGC") Organizations and has adopted the following policy as its own.

Policy

General Policy

No research involving animals may be undertaken or participated in by Covered Individuals, and no facilities of SIMR may be used, unless the research protocol has been approved by IACUC. If in doubt about whether a specific activity must be reviewed by IACUC, it is the obligation of the responsible Covered Individual to contact the IACUC for a determination. If the responsible Covered Individual disagrees with the IACUC's determination, the Covered Individual may appeal to the Institutional Official, whose decision will be final.

Assurance

SIMR's Assurance of Compliance with the Public Health Service (PHS) provides that the Institute will comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The assurance is applicable to all research, research training, experimentation, biological testing, and related activities involving live, vertebrate animals supported by the PHS and conducted at the Institute.

Responsibility for Compliance

The Covered Individual is responsible for complying with the policies of IACUC in addition to all applicable federal regulations. Thus, the Covered Individual is responsible for contacting the

IACUC Office to obtain detailed information and forms for obtaining approval of a research protocol involving animals.

Reporting of Animal Welfare Concerns

Anyone with a concern about possible mistreatment of animals, animal welfare, or noncompliance with approved protocols or accepted standards (collectively, "animal welfare concerns") should report the concern to a member of the IACUC. All reported animal welfare concerns will be treated as confidential to the greatest extent possible. Reports may be made in person to a member of the IACUC, through electronic mail to iacuc@stowers.org, or anonymously in writing. Retaliation against a Covered Individual for making a good faith report of an animal welfare concern is prohibited.

Investigation of Animal Welfare Concerns

All animal welfare concerns will be investigated in accordance with the IACUC Policy "Animal Welfare Concerns," available from the IACUC Administrator.

Procedural Protections for Covered Individuals Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns

If, after making a good faith report of an animal welfare concern, a Covered Individual believes that he or she has been retaliated against because of the report, he or she should notify the Scientific Director. If there appears to be a conflict of interest in notifying the Scientific Director, the notification may be made to the President and CEO of SIMR. The notification should take place within 180 days of learning about the adverse event. The Scientific Director or the President and CEO may appoint one or more individuals to carry out an investigation of the alleged retaliation. The investigation will be carried out confidentially to the greatest extent possible.

This policy was approved by the GSSIMR Board of Directors on September 5, 2018.

This policy was last updated by the GSSIMR Board of Directors on November 09, 2020.

This policy will be reviewed by the GSSIMR Board of Directors in 2022.