

Subject: Training Resources Available; Responsibilities of Principal Investigators

Dear Principal Investigator:

The IIT IACUC wants to do everything possible to achieve real protection for the humans who have contact with animals, and to strengthen protections for animal subjects by providing numerous options for training in animal handling and use. This document is intended to inform you of new and existing resources available to help you fulfill your obligations as principal investigator of an approved IACUC protocol.

As you know, each Principal Investigator (PI) has numerous obligations in regard both to their animal subjects and to the humans who come into contact with animal subjects. All PI's sign assurances in their protocol applications reviewed and approved by IIT's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). PI's are responsible for training staff in proper care and use of animals, and ensuring that their staff has training necessary to be protected from diseases caused by animals. Other obligations and responsibilities are listed below.

I. OBLIGATIONS REGARDING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS):

Animals can sometimes cause diseases to humans. These diseases are called zoonoses. If you have questions about whether you or your staff need an immunization to protect against zoonoses, you should consult with your personal physician or with the campus veterinarian (to contact the IACUC veterinarian, please send an email to IACUC@IIT.EDU). The university will reimburse the cost of your immunizations to protect against zoonoses.

Training is available from the campus veterinarian to help you recognize zoonoses.

PI's are responsible for surveillance of their staff with regard to zoonoses. Should a PI suspect a zoonotic infection, she or he should contact the campus veterinarian and the Director of Environmental Health and Safety (312.567.3084).

2. OBLIGATIONS REGARDING CONDUCTING PROJECT IN A SAFE AND HUMANE MANNER:

PI's are responsible for affirming that students, staff and faculty working with animals as part of a project are qualified or are trained to conduct the project in a humane and scientific manner in accordance with numerous federal regulations, and IACUC and institutional policies. PI's are required to obtain IACUC approval of a protocol before beginning work, and must obtain IACUC approval prior to significant changes in a protocol.

PI's also affirm that their project does not unnecessarily duplicate previous experiments.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP PI'S MEET THESE OBLIGATIONS?

The following resources are available to ensure proper training of all animal users at IIT:

I. CITI Training: www.citiprogram.org

Please see the section on Laboratory Animal Welfare:

- 1) Complete the Basic course and the appropriate species specific modules.
- 2) Choose the appropriate species specific electives according to your research interests.
- 3) After completing the training, a certificate is issued and sent to the IACUC office the following day.

You are strongly advised to retain a paper copy of the certificate for your records. The IIT IACUC Office does not issue certificates of training completion.

Note: Please visit this [link](#) if you need help enrolling in a CITI course for the first time.

2. Two instructional videos have been placed online at IIT, at the request of the IACUC and with permission from the copyright holder. These instructional videos are:

a) "Practical Methodology: Humane Handling and Laboratory Techniques for the Mouse," produced by the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine (19 mins.). The URL is:

<http://media.iitonline.iit.edu/research/mouse/>

b) "Practical Methodology: Humane Handling and Laboratory Techniques for the Rat," produced by the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine (21 mins.). The URL is:

<http://media.iitonline.iit.edu/research/rat>

3. Training in Animal Care and Use is facilitated by the campus veterinarian, Dr. J. Brooks Harder, upon request. Training sessions cover material including laws governing animal use in research, ethics, the roles of members of the research team, alternatives to painful procedures, and bi methodologies of mice & rats. If you wish to schedule a training session with Dr. Harder, please send an email to IACUC@IIT.EDU.

Please contact IACUC@IIT.EDU if you have questions about these resources or your obligations as PI on an IACUC- approved protocol. Your feedback on these resources is welcome.

