CHAPTER 4

PROTOCOL REVIEW

I. Requirements for Review

A. In order to approve proposed research or teaching projects or significant changes in ongoing projects, the IACUC shall conduct a review of those components related to the care and use of animals and determine that the proposed research projects are in accordance with AWR, PHS and MU policies. In making this determination, the IACUC shall confirm that the research project will be conducted in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act insofar as it applies to the project, and that the project is consistent with the manual unless acceptable justification for a departure is presented. Further, the IACUC shall determine that the research project conforms with the institution’s Assurance and meets the following requirements:

1. Procedures with animals will avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain to the animals, consistent with sound research design. The research should yield results for the good of society and not be random or unnecessary in nature. The experiments should be based on the knowledge of the disease or problem under study, and designed so that the anticipated results will justify its performance. Statistical analyses, mathematical models, or in vitro biological systems should be used when appropriate to replace, reduce, or refine (three R’s) the numbers of animals used.

2. Procedures that may cause more than momentary or slight pain or distress to the animals will be performed with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia, unless the procedure is justified for scientific reasons in writing by the investigator.

3. Animals that would otherwise experience severe or chronic pain or distress that cannot be relieved will be painlessly euthanized at the end of the procedure or, if appropriate, during the procedure.

4. The living conditions of animals will be appropriate for their species and contribute to their health and comfort. The housing, feeding, and non-medical care of the animals will be directed by the ARC management or other scientist trained and experienced in the proper care, handling, and use of the species being maintained or studied.

5. Veterinary care for animals will be available and provided as necessary by the veterinarian and ARC staff.

6. Personnel conducting procedures on the species being maintained or studied will be appropriately qualified and trained in those procedures.

7. Post-experimental care of animals must minimize discomfort and the consequences of any disability resulting from the experiments, in
accordance with acceptable veterinary medical practices. If it is necessary to sacrifice an experimental animal, this must be accomplished in a humane manner to insure immediate death in accordance with American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA) euthanasia guidelines. Exceptions must be approved by the IACUC, based on scientific justification. No animal shall be discarded until death is certain.

8. The care and use of laboratory animals in teaching demands the same standards and scientific rigor as those used in research experiments. Instructors planning to conduct educational projects involving animals must first have IACUC approval that adheres to the principles and practices articulated throughout this and other institutional documents, and mandated by law.

B. The IACUC may invite consultants to assist in the review of complex issues. Consultants may not approve or withhold approval of an activity or vote with the IACUC unless they are also members of the IACUC.

C. The IACUC shall notify investigators and the institution in writing of its decision to approve or withhold approval of those activities related to the care and use of animals, or of modifications required to secure IACUC approval. If the IACUC decides to withhold approval of an activity, it shall include in its written notification a statement of the reasons for its decision and give the investigator an opportunity to respond in person or in writing.

D. The IACUC shall conduct continuing review of each previously approved, ongoing activity covered by this Policy at yearly intervals, including a complete review once every three years.

E. The IACUC may suspend an activity that it previously approved if it determines that the activity is not being conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, the Manual, or the institution’s Assurance. The IACUC may suspend an activity only after review of the matter at a convened meeting of a quorum of the IACUC and with the suspension vote of a majority of the quorum present.

F. If the IACUC suspends an activity involving animals, the Institutional Official, in consultation with the IACUC, shall review the reasons for suspension, take appropriate corrective action, and report that action with a full explanation to OLAW.

G. Applications and proposals that have been approved by the IACUC may be subject to further appropriate review and approval by officials of the institution. However, those officials may not approve an activity involving the care and use of animals if it has not been approved by the IACUC.