IACUC and the Stimulus Package

Contributed by Administrator
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Dear Faculty, As many of you know, with the recent passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the National Institutes of Health has issued a strategy to best invest the additional funds made available by the ARRA. There are two new funding opportunities that may impact on the administrative flow of the protocol—funding of previously reviewed but unfunded NIH proposals and new Challenge Grants. Considering these new funding opportunities, we anticipate an increase in IACUC protocol applications over the next few months. In order to remain compliant with the federal-mandated protocol review requirements AND do so in a timely manner despite an increased volume of protocol submissions, the IACUC asks for the faculty’s assistance in assuring that this process runs smoothly. ACTION ITEM FOR THE IACUC OFFICE: The IACUC Office will suspend the expectation regarding protocol submissions and Just in Time (JIT) notification. The IACUC Office encourages the faculty to submit protocols to be linked to grants in these two categories—highly scoring, but previously unfunded NIH awards and new Challenge Grants. PIs should NOT hesitate to submit an IACUC protocol application PRIOR TO just-in-time notification of a potential award. As stated above, the two specific changes in the NIH proposal application process that we believe will have the most impact on the IACUC process are: · Previously reviewed, but unfunded NIH awards. Although many institutes have not yet posted their guidelines, it is likely that JIT notices for these awards may have a short turnaround time. This may potentially have implications for the protocol and grant concerning the IACUC review process. ACTION ITEMS FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: 1. Confirm that you have an approved IACUC protocol that is congruent with your unfunded proposals. You may access Ben Reports to check your protocol status or contact the Office of Regulatory Affairs at 215-573-2540. 2. Submit a new protocol application as soon as possible if you have a previously unfunded grant that could potentially be funded under the ARRA. · NIH Challenge Grant program. The application-to-award time period will be completed in only a few months—the submission deadline is April 27th, review during June-July, Council approval in August with the first disbursement of funds no later than September 30th. Thus, the JIT notice given to awardees of Challenge Grants will likely be on a much shorter timeframe than typical awards. This may potentially have implications for the protocol and grant concerning the IACUC review process. ACTION ITEMS FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: 1. If you submit an application for a Challenge Grant, please do NOT hesitate to submit an IACUC protocol application PRIOR TO just-in-time notification of a potential award (April to June). We recommend doing so as early as possible, at the time you submit the grant application. 2. If you receive word that your application for a Challenge Grant will not be funded, please email the IACUC Office (iacuc@pobox.upenn.edu) and simply request an administrative termination of the protocol. The temporary suspension of the submission-JIT process will create many unfunded but approved IACUC protocols—protocols that we would like to remove from PennERA if they are not going to be active. Please keep in mind that this change in the IACUC protocol submission process is temporary. In the fall of 2009, after the Challenge Grant disbursement date, we will return to normal submission procedure, i.e. our expectation will again be that a protocol application is only submitted when the Principal Investigator receives just-in-time notification. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time. Troy HallmanDirector of Animal Welfare