

IACUC APPEAL PROCESS

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An investigator may request an appeal of an IACUC decision in the following circumstances:

1. The investigator believes the IACUC's decision was based on inadequate or inaccurate information or is out of compliance with University policy, state law, or federal regulations;
2. The investigator disagrees with the process by which a decision was rendered.

Investigators should send their written appeal directly to the chair of the IACUC, describing the specific reasons for the request. IACUC staff will arrange an initial meeting between the investigator and a sub-committee of the IACUC to discuss the issues and to attempt to come to a satisfactory resolution. The sub-committee will be comprised of:

- the chairperson
- the original protocol reviewers (in the case of a protocol review)
- the Director of the Division of Research Affairs
- administrative support, and
- Environmental Health and Safety, as needed.

If the initial meeting does not resolve the appeal, the investigator may forward the appeal and request an additional meeting with the Vice President for Research (VPR) or designee. The VPR may, upon review of the appeal:

- initiate an inquiry into the process and/or data used by the IACUC to arrive at its decision;
- issue an opinion on the appropriateness of that process and/or data;
- choose to convene an ad hoc committee to assist in his review.

Another option for appeal is in the case of suspension/termination of a previously approved protocol, though it should be noted that in the instance of an IACUC suspended or terminated protocol, the VPR would have been previously made aware of the alleged problem, and been significantly involved in both the investigation and the decision to terminate/suspend the study.

NOTE: In accordance with PHS policy IV.C.8, the decision by the IACUC to disapprove a research project cannot be reversed by other officials at the institution; there is no appeal to a 'higher authority.' *However, that disapproval is almost always based on specific shortcomings which, if remediated, will likely result in approval upon subsequent submission.*

Public Health Service Policy, Sec. IV.C.8 **Review of PHS-Conducted or Supported Research Projects:** "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."