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INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

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IACUC GUIDELINE: WHO QUALIFIES TO BE A PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR ON AN IACUC PROTOCOL

DATE IMPLEMENTED: June 14, 2010; November 7, 2014

The Principal Investigator (PI) as defined in the USDA Animal Welfare regulations is "...an employee of a research facility, or other person associated with a research facility, responsible for a proposal to conduct research and for the design and implementation of research involving animals." At UCSB, the definition is expanded to include other employees or visiting academics affiliated with the Institution that are engaged in directing research programs or instructional activities involving animals, or in directing animal facility functions.

The PI is the individual most responsible for the study (or educational mission associated with the course or educational activity), and presupposes a level of knowledge, experience, authority and accountability to ensure the scientific and regulatory integrity of the study. Therefore, only those individuals, who hold faculty appointments (including visiting faculty), or professional researcher or instructor positions (e.g. Academic Coordinator), may be PIs on animal protocols. Graduate student researchers, teaching assistants and post-docs are not permitted to serve as PIs, so any research or teaching activities must be covered on a protocol held by an appropriate PI accepting full responsibility for this oversight.

All protocols must be approved by the IACUC, when the suitability of the PI for this responsibility will be considered in the context of evaluating the proposed regulated activities. All PIs, regardless of whether they conduct any of the work with animals themselves, must complete the UCSB Basic Training Modules every three years. Occupational Health and Safety enrollment for the OHS forms may be waived if the PI states in writing to the IACUC that they will never come into contact with animals either in the vivarium or their research laboratories.