

Research Integrity at UTC

A. THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

The UTC Institutional Review Board (IRB) is guided by the ethical principles regarding all research involving humans as subjects. The mission of the IRB is to ensure that vital research of the University can be conducted in full compliance with both the letter and the spirit of regulations designed to protect the rights and welfare of human subjects. The IRB also monitors research to ensure that human subjects are protected from undue risk and from deprivation of personal rights and dignity. This protection is assured by consideration of three principles that are the basis of ethical research:

1. Voluntary participation by the subjects, indicated by free and informed consent, is assured.
2. An appropriate balance exists between potential benefits of the research to the subject or to society and the risks assumed by the subject.
3. There be fair procedures and outcomes in the selection of research subjects.

In accordance with the Multiple Project Assurance on file with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Institutional Review Board at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga must review and approve all research involving human subjects. The Federal wide Assurance id is FWA00004149.

If you plan to undertake University-related research that will involve human beings in any way, you may need IRB approval. For additional information, such as submission procedures, review status, and other general inquiries, contact irb@utc.edu or go to the IRB site at <http://www.utc.edu/research-integrity/institutional-review-board/>.

B. INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

The University regards the use of animals in research and teaching to be an essential component for continued progress in the field of science and is committed to the highest ethical standard of animal care. Federal regulations mandate the establishment of an institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) to provide guidance, to oversee the animal care and use program, and to ensure compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and policies.

In 1966 Public Law 89-544 first established standards for the care and use of research animals. Two federal agencies, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Public Health Service, require institutions using animals to appoint an IACUC and charge the IACUC with specific responsibilities. Committee members include scientists, non-scientists, and unaffiliated residents of the community. IACUC members review all requests for approval to conduct

research with animals. The IACUC also conducts inspections of all areas where animals are housed and used, reviews the institutional program for animal use, and reports its findings to the certifying agencies semi-annually.

It is imperative that you discuss plans to utilize vertebrate animals with the IACUC prior to initiating your research. This includes populations housed at the university or living in the field. Research may only be deemed exempt from IACUC review by the IACUC chairperson.

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) governs the interpretation of the Public Health Service (PHS) policy on humane care and use of laboratory animals, supports educational programs, and monitors compliance with the Policy by assured institutions to ensure the humane care and use of animals in PHS-supported research. The UTC animal research facility has earned and maintains OLAW assurance certification, indicating compliance with PHS policies. The UTC assurance number is A4450-01.

For additional information on submission procedures, review status, and other general inquiries, please contact iacucpro@utc.edu, or (423) 425-4443. Or visit the IACUC website at <http://www.utc.edu/research-integrity/institutional-animal-care-use-committee/>

C. INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga was established in accordance with guidelines set forth by the National Institutes of Health Office of Biological Activities (OBA) regarding research involving recombinant nucleic acid molecules. Additionally, the IBC provides the policies and guidelines to researchers under which studies may be conducted in order to maintain compliance with local, state, and federal requirements (e.g. NIH, CDC, OSHA, USDA, etc.). The current scope of the IBC covers research involving:

- Recombinant DNA molecules or synthetic nucleic acids as defined in Section I of the NIH Guidelines, including transgenic plants and animals.
- Biological agents (bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, parasites, and prions) and/or vectors that carry biological agents (arthropods, snails, etc.) which: 1) cause or are reasonably expected to cause disease in immunocompetent humans; or 2) cause or are reasonably expected to cause significant disease in local livestock (including poultry), agricultural crops, or indigenous wildlife; or 3) otherwise require containment and safeguards at biosafety level (BSL)-2 or higher.
- Acute biological toxins having an LD₅₀ < 100 ng/kg in mammals and/or those listed as Select Toxins (Department of Health & Human Services).
- Human or nonhuman primate blood, blood products, tissues, secretions, excretions, or cell lines unless documented to be free of bloodborne pathogens or are otherwise low risk as per written risk assessment.

- Venomous animals posing a risk to humans through bite or sting and housed and/or manipulated in laboratories or other indoor facilities (e.g. greenhouses).
- Poisonous plants posing a risk to humans via dermatological contact, inhalation, or other route of exposure and housed and/or manipulated in laboratories or other indoor facilities (e.g. greenhouses).
- Novel nanoparticles conjugated to biologically active or cell-modifying molecules.
- Diagnostic specimens or environmental samples likely to contain any of the above and posing a significant risk to humans or local livestock (including poultry), agricultural crops, or indigenous wildlife as per documented risk assessment, including materials requiring a federal or state permit (e.g. foreign soils, noxious weeds, etc.).

Investigators whose work involves any of these categories are required to file an **Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Registration** with and receive approval from the committee prior to the initiation of any new project. Approval of registrations allow the work outlined within to be conducted for up to three years, barring major changes to the scope of the experiments, and providing the investigator completes the required **IBC Registration Update Form**.

Direct any questions to ibc@utc.edu or (423) 425-4443.