Purpose of Policy: The purpose of this policy is to identify one person who will ultimately be responsible for any and all activities related to the work described in an approved animal care and use protocol.

Policy Information: The Animal Welfare Act defines Principal Investigator (PI) as “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.”

The PI on an animal care and use protocol is ultimately responsible for any and all activities related to the work described in an approved protocol. This includes, but is not limited to, responding to IACUC inquiries within the time frame stipulated by the IACUC, completion and submission of all annual reports, renewals, amendment requests and the actions and safety of all personnel identified in an approved protocol.

To be a PI on an animal care and use protocol, the person must either
a. hold regular faculty or research faculty status as defined in WesternU’s Faculty Handbook,
b. be the Attending Veterinarian ex officio,
c. be the Animal Facilities Manager or
d. be the Managing Director or Study Director of the Contract Research Organization

The IACUC has the responsibility to determine if the person named on a protocol as the PI meets the above criteria and if the person is qualified to assume the responsibilities of a PI as described above. Persons denied PI status may appeal the decision to the IACUC for reconsideration but the IACUC shall make the final decision.

Only one person may be designated as the PI on a submitted animal care and use protocol. Only the PI may submit requests to amend an approved protocol or submit annual review forms, three-year renewals or protocols amended in response to IACUC concerns.
Being a PI on an animal care and use protocol does not convey any other privileges, other than those approved in the protocol, within any college or department of Western University.