



POLICY

TITLE:	Collaborative Research at other Institutions
Policy Number:	2014-046
Responsible Department:	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policy Contact: Designation: E-Mail:	Donald E. Walters, Ph.D. Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee dewalters@westernu.edu
Approval Date:	10/8/14
Reviewed:	10/11/17; 6/10/2020 (Added contact IACUC chair to initiate MOU)
Revised Date:	8/11/16 (duplicate review & MOUs); 10/11/17 (clarified what records must be kept and where)

Purpose of Policy: To ensure that all research and teaching activities involving Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) personnel, including students, conducted at collaborating institutions comply with all applicable regulations.

Background: Per the National Institutes of Health [NOT-OD-01-017](#), the “Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare ([OLAW](#)) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ([APHIS](#)) agree that review of a research project or evaluation of a program or facility by more than one recognized Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is not a federal requirement. If the collaborating institutions have full Public Health Service Assurances, they may exercise discretion in determining which IACUC reviews research protocols and under which institutional program the research will be performed. It is recommended that if an IACUC defers protocol review to another IACUC, then documentation of the review should be maintained by both committees. Similarly, an IACUC would want to know about any significant questions or issues raised during a semiannual program inspection by another IACUC of a facility housing a research activity for which that IACUC bears some responsibility or exposure.”

Policy:

All such collaborative activities must be covered by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)-approved protocol from the collaborating institution. If the activities are not also covered by a protocol approved by WesternU’s own IACUC, the participation of WesternU personnel requires a statement of approval from WesternU’s IACUC. To secure such approval, the involved WesternU personnel must submit:

- A copy of the approved protocol from the collaborating institution as well as updates of any changes in the approval status of that protocol.

- For activities involving animals covered by the [Animal Welfare Act](#) (AWA), a written assurance from the collaborating institution indicating that the United States Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#))-covered species being used will be housed and used at a facility that is registered with the USDA as a research facility. A full copy of the approved protocol, as well as other USDA-required records, e.g. acquisition, transportation, medical records, etc., must be kept at the facility where the animals are housed. In the event that any or all USDA-covered animals involved in a study are housed at WesternU, a copy of the full protocol will be kept at WesternU for review by USDA inspectors.
- For activities funded by the Public Health Service (PHS), a written assurance from the collaborating institution that it is accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International ([AAALAC](#)) or that it has a current Animal Welfare Assurance agreement with the PHS.
- In all cases, however, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be crafted describing the nature and extent of the collaboration. Contact the IACUC Chair to initiate this process.

WesternU's IACUC reserves the right to inspect facilities at other collaborating institutions.

Exceptions to this policy may be granted on a case-by-case basis with appropriate justification.