

PACUC Policy

Priority Review for Protocols with Sponsor-imposed Start Dates

Opportunities for funding are sometimes available for researchers at Purdue University from private sponsors under the conditions that the research begins by a start date that is imposed by the sponsor. When projects of this type involve the use of vertebrate animals approval must be obtained from the PACUC before the project can be initiated. In some cases the researcher may be notified about the availability of funding after the deadline has passed for consideration of new protocols or amendments to existing protocols at the next PACUC meeting. For example, if a protocol or amendment has been submitted too late for consideration at the January meeting of the PACUC, consideration of that protocol or amendment would be delayed until the February meeting. If the imposed start date for the project occurs before the project can be approved by the PACUC at the February meeting, the researcher could lose the opportunity for funding.

In an effort to reduce the likelihood that research and funding opportunities will be lost, PACUC has adopted the following policy:

The PACUC will give priority status for the review of protocols and amendments involving projects for which the start date of the research is imposed by the sponsor. The PACUC Administrator, in consultation with the Chair of the PACUC and the Director of the Laboratory Animal Program will *attempt* to include protocols or amendments that are given priority status with other applications that are scheduled for review at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the PACUC. Priority status will be granted only for projects in which:

- a. It can be documented that the start date of the project has been imposed by the sponsor.
- b. The sponsor documents that notification about the funding opportunity and about the imposed start date was not provided to the PI until after the deadline for consideration of protocols and amendments at the next meeting of the PACUC.
- c. The PI is willing to reduce the administrative burden associated with priority review by making all copies needed for PACUC members and also by distributing the protocol or amendment to the members of the PACUC.

It should be noted that meeting these criteria *does not* guarantee that an application will be approved or even reviewed at the next meeting of the PACUC. Problematic areas may require additional discussion before approval can be granted. Furthermore, other important matters that must be addressed by the PACUC or time constraints that are too severe may make it impossible for review to be completed for some applications that have been granted priority status.

11/15/2006

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