

Policy: Principal Investigator Eligibility for IACUC Protocols

Individuals serving as Principal Investigator (PI) on an IACUC Protocol must have sufficient authority, accountability, experience, and qualifications for the purpose of accepting primary responsibility for the appropriate care and use of live vertebrate animals per their capacity as OSU employees.

IACUC PIs must assume responsibility and oversight for their protocol participants and activities. This includes participant education, safety, training, and related assessments; timely animal care and welfare decisions; required recordkeeping, and compliance with all applicable protocols, policies, regulations, and laws.

Due to the required responsibilities described above, the following OSU appointments are PI-eligible, as defined by the current Office of Academic Affairs Academic Appointments [Guidelines](#):

1. Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor (includes Extension, Senior Research, Clinical, and Practice appointments)
2. Tenured or Tenure-Track Instructor

Graduate students, post-doctoral trainees, research associates, and other faculty positions including courtesy and affiliate faculty, are not eligible to be a PI but may serve as a co-PI. Note that IACUC PI eligibility may differ from PI eligibility definitions used by other units.

PI eligibility may be reconsidered on a case-by-case basis for scenarios in which no individual of professorial rank has sufficient experience and qualifications to provide the required expertise and oversight for the proposed animal activities. Such requests will be reviewed by an IACUC subcommittee and forwarded to the Institutional Official for approval when applicable.

Non-OSU employees may serve as PIs on an IACUC Protocol, with eligibility limited to contractual agreements that provide for IACUC oversight between OSU and the non-OSU entity. A non-OSU PI must maintain a position analogous to professorial authority and accountability.

A PI change is a significant modification to a protocol which requires standard IACUC review and approval. If the current PI is not available to submit this amendment to the IACUC, a supervising Unit Head or equivalent will be asked to either close the ACUP or nominate another eligible PI in writing. The nominated PI may then submit a change in PI amendment to the IACUC for review and approval.

Note that the IACUC may review or re-review PI status and applicability for any protocol, at any time. Acknowledgement of an IACUC submission or completion of a pre-review by the IACUC office does not necessarily imply that PI status has been verified or that a protocol will complete formal review and approval.