

Title: **Principal Investigator Eligibility for IACUC Protocols**

Effective Date: **July 21, 2015** Revision # **02**

Standard Operation Procedure Number: **IACUC-RVW-031** Last Committee Review: **December 4, 2024**

Purpose and Scope:

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to define the IACUC's policy regarding who can serve as the principal investigator on an IACUC protocol.

Definition:

Principal Investigator (PI) - The MSU IACUC defines a PI as the individual with primary responsibility for a project that includes the design and implementation of research and/or teaching involving animals.

Background:

Due to the level of accountability and responsibility involved in conducting work with live vertebrate animals, the MSU IACUC prefers that only faculty members serve as PIs on IACUC protocols. Although graduate and undergraduate students cannot serve as PI, they can be listed as co-investigators with a faculty member serving as the PI. However, the IACUC also recognizes that in certain minimal risk teaching, outreach or research activities, the role of PI may be appropriate for individuals with other University appointments such as staff members.

Policy:

- a. Ordinarily, only full-time members of MSU faculty and senior research appointees may serve as PI on IACUC protocols. These include faculty (defined by the MSU Faculty Handbook) and Clinical Veterinarians.
- b. In addition to individuals with the titles listed above, the IACUC will consider individuals with the following titles to be eligible to serve as the PI on an animal care and use protocol, primarily for teaching and demonstration protocols and minimal risk research protocols (USDA Pain Category C or less). Individuals seeking to be the PI on a higher risk protocol (USDA Pain Category D or E) will require approval of the IACUC Chair and the Attending Veterinarian or designee.

Mississippi State University IACUC Standard Operating Procedure

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- DVM Resident/Interns
 - Lecturer/Senior Lecturer
 - Extension Associate/Senior Extension Associate
 - Research Associate/Senior Research Associate
 - Post-Doctoral Student (their supervising faculty member must be listed as a co-investigator)
- c. Emeritus faculty or faculty with Visiting, Adjunct, Courtesy or other appointments, will ordinarily not be allowed to serve as a PI on an animal use protocol. The IACUC will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis, depending on the proposed animal activities and the rationale for the request.

Reviewed:

IACUC Chairperson

Date

Executive Director, Research Administration

Date