

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

Effective Date: **July 21, 2015** Revision # **01**

Standard Operation Procedure Number: **IACUC-RVW-031** Last Committee Review: **December 14, 2021**

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 principal investigators, they can be listed as co-investigators with a faculty member serving as the principal investigator. 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 Principal Investigators on IACUC protocols. These include the following titles:
 - Professor/Clinical Professor
 - Associate Professor/Clinical Associate Professor
 - Assistant Professor/Clinical Assistant Professor
 - University Professor
 - Senior Scientist
 - Research Scientist
 - Principal Research Scientist
 - 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 Principal Investigator 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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- Instructor
 - 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

Research Compliance & Security Director

Date