



September 17, 2007

TO: Addressees

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

SUBJECT: Appointment of Safety and Health Specialists to Animal Care and Use Committees - **INFORMATION**

As you are aware, all Bethesda-based Animal Care and Use Committees (ACUC) have at least one Division of Health and Safety (DOHS) Safety and Health Specialist appointed as a voting member of the committee. These Specialists participate fully in committee deliberations and assist in animal program oversight activities. In addition, they are also expected to provide expert guidance and interpretation regarding biosafety and the use of hazardous materials associated with activities involving laboratory animals. In the latter role, they serve as critical liaisons between the investigators, ACUCs, animal program officials and NIH review and approval entities, such as the Institutional Biosafety Committee or the Radiation Safety Committee.

I have decided to define Safety and Health Specialists as *ex officio* (voting) members of the Bethesda-based ACUCs. There are occasional operational needs that require shifting assignments of the Safety and Health Specialists among the Institutes/Centers (ICs). If DOHS needs to make operational shifts in the IC assignments of the Safety and Health Specialists, their status as voting ACUC members will not require a separate appointment memorandum.

Please contact me or Dr. James F. Taylor, Director, Office of Animal Care and Use, if additional information or clarification of this policy is required.



Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Addressees

IC Scientific Directors
IC ACUC Chairs
IC Animal Program Directors
IC ACUC Coordinators

cc: Dr. Taylor
Dr. Wilson
Dr. Wyatt