

Responsibilities and composition of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) BioChain Institute, Inc.

Definition

The **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)** is a self-regulating entity that, according to U.S. federal law, must be established by institutions that use laboratory animals for research or instructional purposes to oversee and evaluate all aspects of the institution's animal care and use program.

Law Requirement and Regulations

IACUC is formed according to the Health Research Extension Act of 1985, Public Law 99-158, November 20, 1985, "Animals in Research", in compliance with the NIH Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, published by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare ([OLAW](#)).

Mission

The mission of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is to oversee the provisions for the care and well-being of animals used for research and educational purposes at BioChain Institute, Inc. The IACUC is also committed to serving the public by ensuring conformance to all legal and ethical standards regarding the use of animals in research.

Responsibility

The responsibilities of the IACUC include, but are not limited to the following list. The IACUC will:

1. Inspect all of the animal facilities, including animal study areas and satellite facilities at least once every six months.
2. Review the animal resource center's program for the utilization of animals in research at least once every six months.
3. Review and approve, require modifications to, or withhold approval to animal care and use protocols.
4. Review and investigate legitimate concerns involving the care and use of laboratory animals resulting from public, employee or student complaints. Serious or continuing non-compliance will be reported to the appropriate agency.
5. Suspend an activity involving animals if non-compliance is verified; take corrective action and report non-compliance to funding agencies.

Membership requirement

The IACUC must consist of **at least 5 members** who are appointed by the institution's chief executive officer (CEO).

The appointed members must be qualified through experience and expertise to provide oversight for the institution's animal programs, facilities, and procedures. At a minimum the IACUC must include **a veterinarian, a practicing scientist** experienced in animal research, **a person whose primary concerns are in nonscientific areas**, and **a person who is unaffiliated** with the institution except as a member of the IACUC (sometimes referred to as a public member). An individual who qualifies to fill more than one of the specified categories may be appointed to do so, but the committee must still consist of at least 5 members.

Decision Making

Official IACUC actions, including full committee review of a research protocol and suspension of an activity, require a quorum. "Quorum" is defined as a majority (>50%) of the voting members of the IACUC. Therefore, a protocol is approved only if a quorum is present, and if more than 50% of the quorum votes in favor.

Committee Members (since 2008)

Sean Han, M.D., Ph.D.,	Scientist, Chair of IACUC
Chuanbo Xu, Ph.D. DVM,	Veterinarian
Jenny Weng	Scientist
May Pu,	Non-scientist
Yanru Chen, Ph.D.	Unaffiliated

Assigned by James Wang, CEO, BioChain Institute, Inc