

Research Facilities Improvement Program
(RFIP) Workshop

National Center for Research Resources

Scientific and Technical Review Board (STRB) Review

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NCRR Facilities Infrastructure Support

- C06 Research Facilities Improvement Program
 - All NIH Supported Research Infrastructure Qualifies
 - New Construction and/or Renovation
 - No movable Equipment Purchase Allowed
- G20 Developing & Improving Animal Resources
 - Limited to Renovation of Existing Animal Facilities
 - No New Construction
 - Movable Equipment purchase allowed
 - Won't support teaching equipment or housing non-research animals

STRB Review: Overview

- Reviewers:
 - Builders – Architects
 - Users – Scientists
 - Managers – Veterinarians
- Proposals must pass scrutiny of these varying interests
- Review both C06 and G20 applications

STRB Review of C06 Applications:

Types of Facilities

1. Not supporting animal studies
2. Supporting animal based research
3. Construction/renovation of animal facilities

STRB Review of C06 Applications: No Animal Studies in Facilities

- Details of animal program not required if:
 - No animals involved in studies
 - No animals in adjacent areas
 - State Clearly & Explicitly
- Animal program data required if:
 - Potential interactions with animal related research
 - Facilities adjacent to animal labs
 - Ingress/egress from animal use areas
- Significance: Occupational Health & Safety

STRB Review of C06 Applications: Facilities Supporting Animal Studies

- Labs benefiting from proposal will use animals
- Full details of animal care & use program required
- Lack of detail here is common administrative oversight
- Attending Veterinarian and IACUC should be involved in writing
- Review criteria for G20 for help – program description for C06 is very general due to wider applicant pool

STRB Review of C06 Applications: **Animal Facility Construction/Renovation**

- Full details of animal care & use program required
- Attending Veterinarian and IACUC should be involved in writing
- Review criteria for G20 for help – program description for C06 is very general due to wider applicant pool
- Document facility deficiencies to be corrected
- Document benefits to sponsored research

STRB Review of G20 Applications: **Animal Facility Construction/Renovation**

- Full details of animal care & use program required
- Attending Veterinarian and IACUC should be involved in writing
- Document facility deficiencies to be corrected
- Document benefits to sponsored research

Review of C06 & G20 Applications

Benefits to Research

- Institutions with at least one NIH funded project eligible
 - Does not require large amounts of sponsored research
 - Show how project will facilitate program growth
 - Avoid “Build it and they will come” approach
- Demonstrate benefits to sponsored research that will accrue from proposed construction/renovation
 - Numbers of PHS funded investigators benefiting
 - Identify species used in the studies benefiting
 - \$ value of studies benefiting
 - Expiration dates of research benefiting
- Collaborate with administration to write this section

ANIMAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- Program Oversight
- IACUC Composition & Function
- Attending Veterinarian/Veterinary Care
- Accreditation Status
- Existing and Proposed Facilities
- Animal Care Procedures
- Staff & Training
- Hazard Containment
- Occupational Health
- Security

C06 & G20 Animal Program Description Program Oversight

- Animal Program Management
 - Centralized or decentralized
 - Mgmt of new/renovated facility
- Organizational chart with lines of responsibility
- How compliance is assured

C06 & G20 Animal Program Description

IACUC Function

- Outline procedures clearly
- Composition - list members & categories
- Semiannual facilities inspection & program evaluation
- Review and approval of protocols & changes
- Methods for documenting training
- Methods for assuring compliance
- Methods for investigating concerns

C06 & G20 Animal Program Description

Attending Veterinarian

- Full- or Part-Time or Consultant
 - Expertise in species used
 - If part-time, written veterinary care plan required
 - Input required for studies involving pain
- Describe Veterinary Care Program
 - Daily observation
 - Methods to prevent, control, & treat diseases
 - System for evaluation & treatment of sick animals
 - Equipment and facilities

C06 & G20 Animal Program Description

AAALAC Accreditation Status

- Accredited Programs:
 - Discuss last site visit – can append letter
 - Describe deficiencies and specific plans to address them
 - Document how proposal will correct deficiencies
 - Address correction of administrative and programmatic deficiencies that won't be corrected by this proposal
- Non-accredited Programs:
 - Describe specific plans to attain accreditation
 - Document how proposal will enable accreditation
 - Document how problems not corrected by proposal will be addressed
- AAALAC Program Description – use as a guide to writing, do not submit in entirety (Reviewers not obligated to read all appendices)

C06 & G20 Animal Program Descriptions

Facilities

- Document problems to be solved by construction
 - Discuss solution for problems not solved
- Document benefits to sponsored research
 - Deficient in vivarium-focused submittals
- Provide clear drawings
 - Labels showing room use
 - Entry/egress for personnel
 - Animal transport routes
 - Clean/dirty cage transport routes
 - Equipment location
- Plan for operations during construction

C06 & G20 Animal Program Descriptions Facilities – Equipment

- Provide Vendor quotes
- Controversial
 - Air showers
 - Robotics
- Ventilated rodent racks connected to building exhaust are considered fixed equipment

C06 & G20 Animal Program Descriptions

Animal Care

- Numbers and qualifications of staff
- Provide animal census
 - Correlate increasing population trends with research funding
- Describe animal ordering & quarantine procedures
- Feed, water, bedding
- Environmental enrichment program
- Sanitization procedures & frequency

C06 & G20 Animal Program Descriptions

Training

- Programs to train:
 - Veterinarians & veterinary care personnel
 - Research technicians
 - Surgeons
 - Animal care staff
 - Small programs may require additional expertise
- How IACUC ensures adequate training

C06 & G20 Animal Program Descriptions

Hazardous Agents

- Review & approval process
 - Protection of personnel and animals
 - Agent containment
- BSL 2,3, & 4:
 - HVAC must be well described
 - Describe SOPs for decon, PPE, etc.
 - Ensure adequate space for operations
 - Describe movement of personnel, animals, agents
 - Limit access
- Ensure proper cabinets & hoods
- Hazardous material storage & disposal

C06 & G20 Animal Program Descriptions

Occupational Health

- Risk Assessment
- Who is included in program
- Immunizations & medical surveillance
- Zoonosis education & protection
- Lab animal allergy risk reduction plan
- Nonhuman primate exposure
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Bite / scratch protocol

C06 & G20 Animal Program Descriptions

Security

- Emergency preparedness plan
- Entry to facilities
 - Card/key access points
 - Who authorizes entry
- Select agent plan

Review of C06 & G20 Applications

Summary

- Document benefits to PHS funded research
- Document facility deficiencies to be corrected
- Consult with specialists in writing application
 - Administration regarding benefits to research
 - IACUC staff regarding procedures
 - Attending Veterinarian or outside consultant for facility plan & program description
 - Architect for plans, cost estimates, and drawings