

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE  
REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

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**PRESENTED BY:** Steven Rayan; chair, Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work

**DATE OF MEETING:** November 17, 2022

**SUBJECT:** **Annual Reports from the Research Ethics Boards**

**COUNCIL ACTION:** **For Information Only**

**SUMMARY:**

The terms of reference for the Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work committee state that the committee will receive and report to council the annual reports of the research ethics boards

At its November 3, 2022 meeting, RSAW met with the chairs of the Biomedical Research Ethics, the Behavioural Research Ethics, and the Animal Ethics Boards. The reports provided are attached to this report.

Biomedical Research Ethics Board

The Biomedical Research Ethics Board is responsible for the review of all ethics applications involving human participants that include medically invasive procedures; physical interventions and therapies; administration and testing of drugs, natural products or devices; or physiological imaging measures, as well as research projects collective personal health information from medical charts and health records.

The Biomedical Research Ethics Board received 268 new studies for review and reviewed and 127 study closures. These numbers are consistent with previous years.

Behavioural Research Ethics Board

The Behavioral Research Ethics Board is responsible for review of all protocols involving human participants which include social, behavioural, and cultural

research using methods such as interviews, surveys, questionnaires, observations, psychological, social or behavioural interventions, audio and/or video recording.

The Behavioural Ethics Board received 550 new studies, reviewed and approved 539 renewal requests for ongoing studies, received 204 study closures, and 414 study amendments. .

#### University Animal Care Committee

The University Animal Care Committee (UACC) is administratively supported by the Research Services and Ethics Office Animal Ethics Staff, who are overseen by the University Veterinarian.

The UACC reviews and approves any use of animal for research, teaching, production, and testing before animal use is initiated for these purposes. The UACC's primary responsibilities are to ensure animal welfare, adequate veterinary care, and best practices with respected to animal care and use in compliance with University of Saskatchewan Policy, Canadian Council on Animal Care guidelines, and other applicable regulation. The UACC has 432 active USask protocols, serving approximately 200 principle investigators. Animal Ethics staff provide specialized support for animal users engaged in research, teaching, and testing

With regard to the work of all ethics board, RSAW was impressed, as always, with the volume of work members undertake, both to review protocols and to support research at the U of S, and in work with national regulatory bodies. RSAW also expressed an interest in seeing ethics training be required more broadly.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Executive Summary –Biomedical and Behavioural REBs Activities – May 1, 2021-April 30, 2022
2. Annual report of Behavioural and Biomedical Research Ethics Board Activities Reporting period – May 1, 2021-April 30,2022
3. Biomedical REB 1 Membership April 2022
4. Biomedical REB 2 Membership April 2022
5. Behavioural REB Membership April 2022
6. Report from Animal Care and Use Program and University Animal Care Committee November 2022
7. Guidelines for Delegated Review of Minimal Risk Research January 2022

Biomedical Annual Report  
May 01, 2021 - April 30, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Submission Dates 2021/22	Total New Studies	Full Board Reviews	Delegated Reviews	Exempt	Full Board Amendment	Delgated Amendment	Administrative Review	Full Board Renewals	Delegated Renewals	Closures	Protocol Violations	Internal SAE's	from ABCC	CTSU
May	24	7	15	2	5	43	3	3	63	20	2	0	0	1
June	16	5	8	3	2	44	6	1	53	8	6	0	1	4
July	17	6	11	0	4	40	1	1	49	9	2	0	1	6
August	20	6	12	2	2	40	1	5	52	7	4	0	5	2
September	20	11	7	2	7	56	5	6	62	11	0	0	0	3
October	28	5	16	7	2	37	3	9	30	8	2	0	1	7
November	30	6	21	3	2	30	9	1	76	18	15	0	4	6
December	17	4	10	3	3	29	7	15	37	12	1	4	0	2
January	15	1	13	1	2	35	2	1	66	11	4	1	2	1
February	25	3	20	2	1	29	5	4	60	11	4	0	0	2
March	24	5	16	3	2	70	5	7	47	4	6	0	0	3
April	32	8	20	4	5	27	1	3	56	8	1	1	1	1
<b>2021-22 Year Totals</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>2020-21 Year Totals</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>2019-20 Year Totals</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>2018-19 Year Totals</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34</b>

**NOTES:**

1. Full Board Reviews : Refers to review of research assessed as above minimal risk, and reviewed at a face-to-face REB meeting and is inclusive of full board delegated reviews.
2. Delegated Reviews : Refers to a review by the Chair and/or one or more REB members.
3. Exempt : Projects exempt from research ethics review based on TCPS2 criteria (e.g. quality assurance, secondary use of de-identified data).
4. Full Board Amendment : Major amendment to an already approved study reviewed at a face-to-face REB meeting
5. Delegated Amendment : Minor revisions to an already approved study reviewed by the Chair and/or one or more REB members.
6. Administrative Review: Minor administrative amendments reviewed and acknowledged by the Specialist.
7. Full Board Renewals : Study renewals that require review at a face-to-face REB meeting.
8. Delegated Renewals : Study renewals reviewed through the delegated review process.
9. Closures include completed protocols as well as those that are cancelled or withdrawn.
10. Protocol Violations : Unanticipated or unintentional divergence from the expected conduct of an approved study that is not consistent with the current protocol.
11. Internal SAE's : Refers to any unanticipated problem(s) that occurs involving a USask researcher/study participant.
12. From ABCC : Files that we have received from Allan Blair Cancer Centre
13. CTSU : Studies that are managed by the Clinical Trial Support Unit

May 1, 20201- April 30, 2022	Protocols Submitted	1 Full Board Reviews	2 Delegated Reviews	3 Exempt	4 Acknowledged	5 Renewed	6 Amendment	7 Closed
May	58	1	40	13	4	42	28	26
June	51	0	31	15	5	31	41	18
July	40	0	24	15	1	31	36	12
August	35	1	23	9	2	60	22	13
September	30	0	25	4	1	48	39	20
October	41	2	26	10	3	59	40	15
November	53	0	31	18	4	51	35	23
December	35	2	23	10	0	31	26	13
January	48	2	27	12	7	51	32	24
February	49	1	30	15	3	44	30	19
March	69	3	33	27	6	52	51	11
April	41	2	23	14	2	39	34	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>204</b>
May 2020 - Apr 2021	619	23	393	165	38	526	397	240
May 2019 - Apr 2020	533	14	376	115	28	435	348	246
May 2018 - Apr 2019	567	16	380	144	27	450	265	241
May 2017 - Apr 2018	454	17	353	84	29	412	220	234
% Change	-11%	-39%	-15%	-2%	0%	2%	4%	-15%

**Notes:**

1. Full Board Review - Refers to the review of "above minimal risk" protocols by the full Beh-REB.
2. Delegated Review - Refers to the review of "minimal risk" protocols by a delegated member of the REB.
3. Exempt from review reflects the protocols that are deemed exempt after ethical review by the Beh-REB, based on the TCPS2 (e.g. quality assurance, secondary use of anonymous data)
4. Acknowledged - Refers to minimal risk protocols approved by another REB where Usask review would be redundant.
5. The Annual Renewals column denotes those files that remain active.

**6. Amendments - Refers to modifications made to previously approved projects that have been submitted for review.**

**7. Closed - Studies that have been finished and file closed**

**The Usask REBs no longer perform Harmonized Reviews under the new Reciprocity Agreement - We are currently working on a way to track protocols that have gone through Reciprocity with UofR and/or SHA**

### Biomedical Research Ethics Board-1 Membership Roster

BIO-REB MEMBER	CURRENT TERM	AFFILIATION WITH REB	AFFILIATION WITH INSTITUTION
Dr. Gordon McKay, Chair Professor Emeritus, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition	01-Nov-2019 to 30-Apr-2022	Scientific Representative	Yes
Dr. Ildiko Badea, Vice-Chair Pharmacy & Nutrition	01-Mar-2020 to 28-Feb-2023	Scientific Representative	Yes
Dr. Christine Pask* General Practitioner	01-Mar-2020 to 28-Feb-2023	Clinician	Yes
Dr. Ali El-Gayed* Radiation Oncology	01-Dec-2019 to 30-Nov-2022	Clinician	Yes
Dr. Don Cockcroft* Respirology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine	01-Oct-2021 to 30-Sep-2024	Clinician	Yes
Dr. Phil Chilibeck* College of Kinesiology	01-Feb-2020 to 31-Jan-2023	Scientific Representative	Yes
Dr. Soo Kim* School of Rehabilitation Science	01-Oct-2019 to 30-Nov-2022	Scientific Representative	Yes
Dr. Humphrey Fonge* Medical Imaging	01-Dec-2021 to 30-Nov-2024	Scientific Representative	Yes
Dr. Barbara von Tigerstrom* College of Law	01-Nov-2020 to 31-Oct-2023	Legal Representative	Yes
Dr. Ibronke Odumosu-Ayanu* College of Law	01-Jan-2021 to 31-Dec-2023	Legal Representative	Yes
Solly & Priscilla Sader*	01-Feb-2022 to 31-Jan-2025	Community Member	No
Michael Afenfia*	01-Apr-2022 to 31-Mar-2025	Community Member	No
Donna Hagen*	01-Dec-2021 to 30-Nov-2024	Knowledgeable in Ethics	No
Caitlin Prebble, Biomedical Research Ethics Specialist, Research Ethics Office	08-Jun-2018 to Present	Non-Voting Member	Yes
Darcie Earle, Biomedical Research Ethics Coordinator, Research Ethics Office	01-Jun-2015 to Present	Non-Voting Member	Yes
Adrian Taylor, Research Ethics Coordinator, Research Ethics Office	20-Sep-2021 to Present	Non-Voting Member	Yes

(\* Members may serve as alternates on the Bio-REB-2 to meet quorum requirements.

### Biomedical Research Ethics Board-2 Membership Roster

BIO-REB MEMBER	CURRENT TERM	AFFILIATION WITH REB	AFFILIATION WITH INSTITUTION
Dr. Gordon McKay, Chair Professor Emeritus, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition	01-Nov-2019 to 30-Apr-2022	Scientific Representative	Yes
Dr. Ildiko Badea, Vice-Chair Pharmacy and Nutrition	01-Mar-2020 to 28-Feb-2023	Scientific Representative	Yes
Dr. Hadi Goubran Messiha* Radiation Oncology/Hematology	01-Oct-2019 to 30-Sep-2022	Clinician	Yes
Dr. Sharyle Fowler* Gastroenterology and Hepatology	01-Nov-2021 to 31-Oct-2024	Clinician	Yes
Dr. Dean Weninger* Optometrist	01-Oct-2021 to 30-Sep-2024	Scientific Representative	No
Janet DeGirolamo*	01-Dec-2019 to 30-Nov-2022	Scientific Representative	No
Norma Sim*	01-Nov-2019 to 31-Oct-2022	Legal Representative	No
Leah Howie* College of Law	01-Oct-2021 to 30-Sep-2024	Legal Representative	Yes
Leslie Spokes*	02-Sep-2019 to 01-Sep-2022	Community Member	No
Brian Galka*	15-Mar-2020 to 14-Mar-2023	Community Member	No
Alex Beldan* Teaching, Learning & Student Experience	28-Apr-2019 to 27-Apr-2022	Knowledgeable in Ethics	No
Caitlin Prebble, Biomedical Research Ethics Specialist, Research Ethics Office	08-Jun-2018 to Present	Non-Voting Member	Yes
Darcie Earle, Biomedical Research Ethics Coordinator, Research Ethics Office	01-Jun-2015 to Present	Non-Voting Member	Yes
Adrian Taylor, Research Ethics Coordinator, Research Ethics Office	20-Sep-2021 to Present	Non-Voting Member	Yes

(\* Members may serve as alternates on the Bio-REB-1 to meet quorum requirements.



## Behavioural Research Ethics Board Membership Roster

<b>Beh-REB Member</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Affiliation with REB</b>	<b>USask Affiliation</b>
Diane Martz, Co-Chair	04 April 2019 to 30 Apr 2022	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Pammla Petrucka, Co-Chair College of Nursing	01 Jan 2010 to 01 April 2025	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Stephanie Martin, Vice-Chair College of Education	01 Sept 2004 to 31 Dec 2023 (On leave)	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Marjorie Delbaere Edwards School of Business	01 Sept 2014 to 01 Sept 2023	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Mary Heilman	01 Jan 2018 to 31 Dec 2023 (On leave)	Ethicist	No
Holly Graham College of Nursing	01 Sept 2021 to 01 Sept 2024	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Karen Lawson Department of Psychology	01 Sept 2019 to 01 Sept 2022	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Robert Patrick, Department of Geography & Planning & School of Environment & Sustainability	10 Sept 2019 to 10 Sept 2022	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Robert Henry Department of Indigenous Studies	01 Oct 2019 to 01 Oct 2022	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Olga Lovick Department of Linguistics	01 Sept 2020 to 01 Sept 2023	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Madasan Yates	01 May 2021 to 01 May 2024	Legal Representative	No
Clinton Westman Department of Archaeology and Anthropology	01 Sept 2021 to 01 Sept 2024	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Todd Morrison Department of Psychology	01 Oct 2021 to 01 Oct 2024	Behavioural Research Representative	Yes
Natasha Hubbard Murdoch School of Nursing Saskatchewan Polytechnic	01 Jan 2022 to 01 Jan 2025	Behavioural Research Representative	No
Sandra Lockhart	01 Jan 2022 to 01 Jan 2025	Community Member	No
Brenda Andreas	01 Jan 2022 to 01 Jan 2025	Community Member	No
Anahit Falihi	01 Jan 2022 to 01 Jan 2025	Community Member	No
Alex Beldan	01 Mar 2022 to 30 Apr 2022	Ethicist	Yes
Elana Geller	01 April 2022 to 10 Apr 2025	Ethicist	Yes
Nick Reymond, Behavioural Research Ethics Specialist	Feb 2018 to present	Research Ethics Office, non-voting member	Yes
Joni Aschim, Behavioural Research Ethics Coordinator	March 2016 to present	Research Ethics Office, non-voting member	Yes
Adrian Taylor, Behavioural Research Ethics Coordinator	Sept 2021 to present	Research Ethics Office, non-voting member	Yes
Melanie Bayly, Behavioural Research Ethics Coordinator	January 2022 to present	Research Ethics Office, non-voting member	Yes

# Animal Care and Use Program and University Animal Care Committee

Report to the RSAW Committees Fall 2022

Christy Morrissey and Robert Laprairie, UACC/AREB Co-Chairs  
Kurtis Swekla, University Veterinarian

November 2022

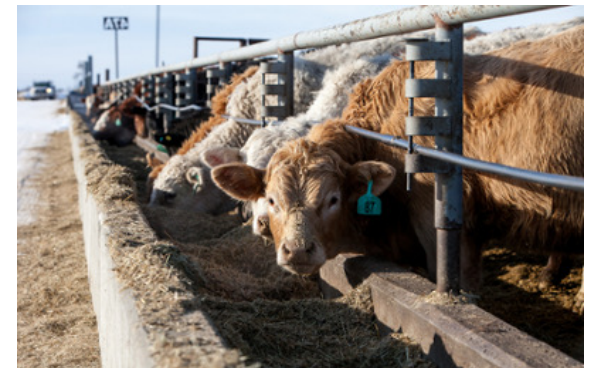


# What is the Animal Care and Use Program?

- The **University Animal Care Committee (UACC)** supports animal care and use and ensures compliance to CCAC national standards
- membership comes from across campus and from all sectors with experience/interest in animal care and research including:
  - a) faculty conducting diverse animal research
  - b) veterinary expertise
  - c) a member of the University not involved with using animals
  - d) community representatives
  - e) technical staff representatives (technicians, facility managers, biosafety)
  - f) student representatives
  - g) administrative support

# What does the UACC do?

1. Review and Approval of New Animal Use Protocols, Modifications and Renewals
2. Obtain and Report Animal Use to CCAC
3. Update Standard Operating Procedures
4. Education and Training
5. Veterinary and Research Support
6. Compliance and Monitoring



# Summary of Activities

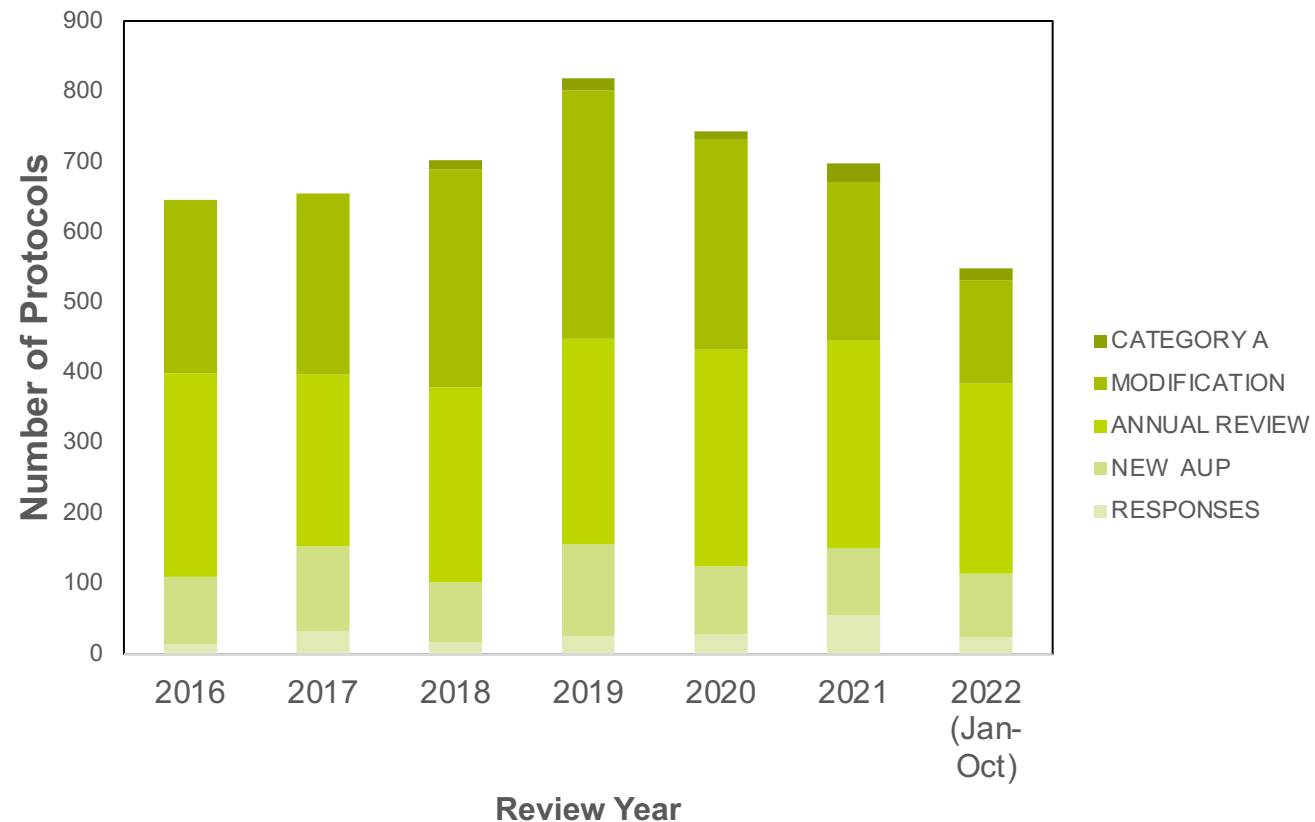
October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

## 1) Review/Approval of New Animal Use Protocols, Modifications and Annual Renewals

- Active number of PIs = **194**
- Active Animal users = **853**
  
- Active USASK Animal Use Protocols (AUPs) = **432**
- Protocol/Renewal/Modification reviews completed:
- **2021 (Jan-Dec) = 698**
- **2022 (Jan-Oct) = 548 to date**

# AREB Committee Reviews

- **Average = 701 protocols reviewed/year**
- **2 Full board meetings/month and 2 Subcommittee meetings/month** to manage timely reviews (AREB-1 and AREB-2)



# AREB Committee Membership

- Combined AREB-1 and AREB-2 membership: **62 members**
  - 2 Co-chairs (Drs. Morrissey and Dr. Laprairie)
  - 1 Vice Chair (Dr. Steve Machtaler – new!)
  - 4 Vets (University Vet, 2 Clinical Vets, 1 PAR Vet)
  - 15 USask Researcher Representatives (across range of Colleges)
  - 4 Affiliated Institution Researcher Representatives
  - 3 Community Representatives- new incentives provided in 2022 to attract and retain
  - 3 Institutional Non-Animal Users
  - 4 Animal Technician Representatives
  - 6 Trainee Representatives
  - 2 Safety Resources representatives – now filling a gap from last year
  - 6 ACRS Support Staff (non-voting)

# Summary of Activities

## 2021-22

### 2) Obtain and Report Animal Use

- Animal Order Desk tracked approximately **101,000 animals used** during this reporting period (slight reduction from normal due to pandemic and shutdown of campus)
- Tracking **108 species** of lab animals (+70 different mouse strains), livestock and wildlife
- ACRS facilitates animal re-use and **tissue share program** to donate surplus or control animals
- Report animal numbers annually to CCAC





# Summary of Activities

## 2021-22

### 3) Updating Standard Operating Procedures

- Ongoing work to regularly revise, update, and newly develop a large number of SOPs in support of ACRS processes
- CCAC guidelines requires new and updated protocol development
- New AUP forms (MS Word) implemented Jan 2022
- New SharePoint Online site for managing protocol reviews- managing workflow and organizational capacity



# Summary of Activities

## 2021-22

### 4) Education and Training

- Rodent handling, surgery, and anesthesia practical skills training continue to be offered regularly.
- Anaesthesia and surgical practical training is now MANDATORY (effective June 2022)
- A Fish User Training Practical Skills Course is offered monthly.
- ACRS staff continue to offer specialized practical skills training by request.
- ACRS staff deliver regular animal handling laboratories to VLAC 215 students
- High influx of new students 2021 and 2022 have meant training can be delayed for some students.



# Summary of Activities

## 2021-22

### 5) Veterinary and ACRS Research Support

- 4 veterinarians providing direct support and training for:
  - veterinary care of research animals
  - procedures and surgeries
  - performing pay for fee surgical or other services
  - Support for development of AUPs, animal model development, SOPs
- New ACRS Quarterly Update Newsletter (Carrie Rhodes)
- ACRS office facilitates revisions of protocols, adding personnel, funding changes



# Summary of Activities

## 2021-22

### 6) Compliance and Monitoring

- **CCAC interim (3 yr) assessment was in May 2022 and reports recently received Oct 2022** (USask received draft **6 commendations** and **4 recommendations**. The full CCAC reports will be made available on SharePoint Online)
- **Annual facility inspections** (USASK has **>23 animal facilities**) have resumed in person following removal of pandemic restrictions
- Individual AUP compliance is facilitated by the **Post-Approval Review Veterinarian**
- Documented **non-compliance or mass mortality events** are overseen by Executive Committee and/or CCAC incident reporting.



# Program Changes/Needs

- **Leadership** – permanent University Vet hired (Dr. Kurtis Swekla) and new AVPR Ethics and Infrastructure – ACRS Office/UACC Reporting now to Dr. Terry Fonstad
- **Support staff** – ongoing capacity challenges and need for additional permanent and stable staff positions (office, animal training, veterinary, and technicians) due to large and increasingly complex workload
- **Software and IT support** for animal use tracking and protocols desperately needed
- **Facility renovation and expansion** – plans for VIDO as Canada’s Centre for Pandemic Research, Goodale and Specialized Livestock Research Facility. Ongoing challenges to fund, maintain and upgrade all other campus existing animal facilities.
- **Addressing variability in animal Per diems** – *Per diems* are charged for animal husbandry in most facilities (LASU, CSRB, ATRF) but inconsistent funding for technician salaries across facilities results in varying per diem costs to researchers

# Short term Plans

- **Draft guidance** doc (SOP) for what constitutes new AUPs vs Modifications
- **Draft guidance** doc (SOP) for process that constitutes RAWI and process that would occur for CCAC reporting
- Plan for creating a **protocol repository** with exemplar protocols to share with PIs
- Develop processes and approaches to better manage **protocol upload, tracking and reporting animal use** while waiting for IT support and new system

## **Behavioral Research Ethics Board (REB)**

### **Guidelines for Delegated Review of Minimal Risk Research**

**January 12, 2022**

TCPS2 Article 6.12 states that with the support of their institutions, the REB may develop their own mechanisms under which delegation of the conduct of research ethics review, decision making and the associated reporting process will occur. To improve the efficiency of the work of the Behavioral Research Ethics Board, review and approval of Minimal Risk Research may be delegated by the Chair to REB members and non-voting members of the REB.

Article 6.4 of the TCPS2 states that where research ethics administration staff have the requisite experience, expertise and knowledge comparable to what is expected of REB members, institutions may appoint them (based on the written policies and procedures of the institution (SOP 204.002)) to serve as non-voting members on the REB.

The actions and decision of delegated reviewers must be well documented and formally reported to the full REB in a timely and appropriate manner. Where the delegated review is conducted by non-voting members of the REB, this formal report shall be made through the Chair (TCPS2 Article 6.12).

As of January 15, 2022, the Chair delegates signing authority to REB members and non-voting members of the REB as follows:

#### **1. Non-voting members of the REB**

- a. Annual renewals of approved minimal risk research,
- b. Closures of approved minimal risk research,
- c. Simple amendments of approved minimal risk research, for example those which involve changes in personnel and location.
- d. Simple exemption requests involving TCPS2 articles 2.1, 2.2, and 2.4

Where the Non-voting member feels that there is an issue that requires REB attention, they will escalate the review to the Chair or a Vice-Chair.

#### **2. Behavioural REB Members**

- a. Annual renewals of approved minimal risk research,
- b. Closures of approved minimal risk research,
- c. Amendments of approved minimal risk research.
- d. Simple exemption requests involving TCPS2 articles 2.1, 2.2, and 2.4
- e. Simple Minimal Risk projects (e.g., anonymous online questionnaires and simple interviews)
  - i. Administrator completes administrative review of the application and sends both their review and the application to REB member for their review.
  - ii. REB members completes the review and NER is sent to the researcher.

- iii. Administrator reviews the responses. Where items have not been addressed in the responses (e.g., missing documents or missing responses), the Administrator will correspond with the researchers to ensure that the responses are complete.
- iv. Once the administrator is satisfied that the responses are complete, they will forward the responses and their recommendation to the REB member who reviewed the application for their review.
- v. REB member reviews NER responses and if complete, recommends that the REB issue a CoA.
- vi. Where the administrator or delegated reviewer feels that there is an issue that requires REB attention, they will escalate the review to the Chair or a Vice-Chair.