

**THE USE OF ANIMALS IN COMPANY-SPONSORED, PRODUCT-SPECIFIC TRAINING**

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Chair, Univ. of Pittsburgh IACUC\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Attending Veterinarian\_\_\_\_\_  
Date**I. RATIONALE**

While academic and research institutions and the drug and device industries share a desire to advance science and improve healthcare, the underlying interests of these diverge on the subjects of the public interest and economic gain. Healthcare professionals and scientists must align themselves with the needs of society as a whole, while industry is ultimately profit-oriented. While there are no specific laws governing the use of animals for company-sponsored, product-specific training, the IACUC has a federally-mandated responsibility, via PHS-Policy and the Animal Welfare Act, to ensure that animals are used responsibly, and only in studies that are scientifically necessary. This policy was developed to assure that research animals are used responsibly, for only scientifically justified purposes.

**II. SCOPE**

This policy applies to all faculty and staff conducting animal research at the University of Pittsburgh. It supplements and reinforces existing conflict of interest policies at the University:

- [Industry Relationship Policy](#)
- [Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Interactions between Representatives of Certain Industries and Faculty, Staff and Students of the Schools of Health Sciences and Personnel Employed by UPMC at all Domestic Locations](#)

### III. STATEMENT OF POLICY

In general, the IACUC does not condone company-sponsored, product-specific training in University or UPMC facilities. In particular, the use of animals for the sole purpose of product demonstration or product training is not acceptable and will not be approved.

Industry support of training or teaching activities will only be allowed under extraordinary, scientifically-justified circumstances if the use of an animal model is the only way to accomplish this training, and the training is capable of and necessary to correct identified and quantified serious safety issues with the particular procedures or products in question. In such a case an appropriate agreement must be negotiated through the University with the funding source *prior to submission of an IACUC protocol application*.

Investigators seeking approval for industry-sponsored training protocols that make use of live animals must abide by the following points:

- Protocols that include teaching or training in which funding is provided by external corporate entities cannot be used to actively promote or market commercial products.
- Research data collected for the purpose of product development or validation cannot be part of any teaching or training protocol with corporate sponsorship.
- IACUC-approved protocols involving teaching or training with corporate sponsorship must comply with the [Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Interactions between Representatives of Certain Industries and Faculty, Staff and Students of the Schools of Health Sciences and Personnel Employed by UPMC at all Domestic Locations](#).
- The receipt of products and/or services from an industry sponsor constitutes sponsorship. Such sponsorship must be disclosed on the appropriate IACUC protocol in the Funding Information section.
- Agreements that seek to lease or rent the University facilities, or which permit instruction by industry representatives, or which include third parties invited by industry representatives, will not be approved.