



Animal Program Policy

Title: Forsyth Policy on Animal Work Performed Outside of Forsyth

Date Created: May 31, 2023

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The list of species that can be housed in the Forsyth animal facility is limited to mice, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, and possibly rabbits. From time to time, investigators need to perform experiments in other species or using technology not available at Forsyth and will need to arrange to do these experiments at other institutions (“outside animal work”). If any outside animal work is funded directly by Forsyth (i.e., funds are transferred from Forsyth to the outside institution directly), the Forsyth IACUC has a responsibility to ensure that the work is done at the highest ethical standards and according to our guidelines.

The way we ensure this is by entering into an agreement called a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the institution performing the animal work, which must be accredited by AAALAC. The MOU lays out the responsibilities of each institution. Forsyth has a standard MOU that delegates responsibility for protocol approval and post-approval monitoring to the outside institution. This MOU must be signed by both parties prior to animal work being initiated at the outside institution. The MOU also includes a provision that Forsyth can request a copy of the approved protocol from the outside institution. Forsyth will exercise this option in most cases, so we know the extent of animal work being funded by Forsyth.

Many institutions in the Boston/Cambridge area, including Forsyth, have signed a document called the Master Reciprocal Agreement for Animal Care and Use. This document is basically an MOU among the 16 signatory institutions listed below; no additional MOU is required for work conducted at these institutions. Work done at any other institution, however, requires execution of a new MOU, using the form Forsyth will provide, prior to the initiation of animal work.

All investigators are required to inform the Forsyth IACUC if animal work will be done by outside institutions, even if the outside institution is a signatory to the Master Reciprocal Agreement.

This policy only covers situations where Forsyth is directly paying for the animal work. If the work is being done as part of a collaboration or subcontract, no MOU is needed, as the outside institution in these cases has sole responsibility for oversight of the animal work.

Please contact IACUC@Forsyth.org to arrange for the execution of an MOU, to report any outside animal work, or with any questions.

Signatories to the Master Reciprocal Agreement as of 4/20/23

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston Children's Hospital
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Broad Institute
Dana Farber Cancer Institute
Forsyth Institute
Harvard Medical School
Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health
Harvard University
Joslin Diabetes Center
Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary
MGH
MGH Institute of Health Professionals
MIT
McLean Hospital
Schepens Eye Research Institute
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital