University of Cincinnati  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  

Post-Approval Monitoring  

**Introduction**

A post approval monitoring program (PAM) has been developed to contribute to the importance of securing the foundation of research at UC by collecting evidence of good performance and compliance, in order to prevent costly concerns. The PAM program assures regulatory agencies that animal studies conducted are in accordance with approved IACUC protocols, as directed by the USDA, OLAW, and AAALAC. The purpose of post approval monitoring is to work with, and in support of, research staff members to ensure accurate and consistent protocol performance. The essence of the PAM program is to be collegial and supportive of animal based research. The anticipated goal of this proactive program is to educate researchers on compliance and cultivate a positive culture about compliance throughout our institution. Most importantly, PAM is intended to be a beneficial tool for all groups working with animals and provide an opportunity to communicate, educate, and build relationships with IACUC.

**PAM Process**

The post approval monitoring program will involve a laboratory site visit to observe animal procedures being performed, evaluate record keeping, and discuss approved activities. It’s important to acknowledge that receiving notification that your animal protocol has been selected for monitoring doesn’t imply that wrong-doing is suspected in the conduct of your study. At the conclusion of the visit, researchers will be offered the opportunity to meet with the compliance liaison to discuss and respond to initial findings. The site visits will be conducted by a compliance liaison and may include a veterinarian or IACUC member. The compliance liaison will note areas of excellence, make suggestions for improvement, and if compliance issues are identified, will assist the researcher in developing appropriate corrective actions for presentation to the committee.

**Regulatory Requirements**

In response to increasing oversight and consequences imposed by regulators, post-approval monitoring has become the industries standard practice. The IACUC is currently responsible for conducting a continuing review of approved protocols in accordance with Public Health Service Policy (IV.C.5.) and Animal Welfare Regulations (Sec 2.31(d)). Furthermore, the 8th edition of the “Guide” (p 33) describes the elements of continuing review and offers the IACUC guidance on the effective implementation of PAM.