

NHMFL – Animal Research

QUESTION: What procedures have to be followed for experiments involving animals?

ANSWER: The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory abides by all rules, regulations and reviews of by the Florida State University Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC), which ensures the proper and humane use of laboratory animals for scientific research. The FSU ACUC is committed to responsible oversight of the use of vertebrate animals in research, testing and exhibition in accordance with Public Health Service Policy. The Committee assures that all use of animals at Florida State University is in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and all other applicable federal, state and local regulations, policies and procedures. Information about the FSU ACUC and animal protocol review process can be found at: www.research.fsu.edu/acuc/ .

Thus, any research scientist with the desire to perform any type of 1) Surgical procedure, 2) Behavioral Test and/or 3) Magnetic Resonance Imaging or Spectroscopy experiment at the NHMFL is required to submit a complete and detailed animal protocol explaining the experiment's purpose, course of action, novelty and other humane criteria to the FSU ACUC for review and approval. If principle investigators (PIs) have ACUC or IACUC protocol approval from their home institutions, the review of these existing animal protocols by the FSU ACUC is expedited in most instances. However, all material for review must be submitted to the FSU ACUC for review well PRIOR to experimentation. MINIMUM timeframes for review: 1) existing ACUC/IACUC protocols should be submitted at least one month prior to experiments and 2) new ACUC protocols going through the FSU ACUC review process should be submitted three months prior to experiments to ensure all potential issues are addressed.

Upon completion and acceptance of this research animal protocol, principal investigators (PI) should contact Mr. Fabian Calixto Bejarano (fabian.cb@magnet.fsu.edu) for detailed information on how to use NHMFL facilities. PIs will be required to schedule specific dates on which they would like to carry out their experiments (for all surgical procedures, behavioral testing or magnet time), explain if any special accommodations are required for onsite animal housing (only mouse and rat housing), transportation and/or dietary intake, and how if any medications or chemical compounds (FDA controlled substance regulations apply in some cases) to be used will be delivered and stored. In most instances, external researchers utilize animals delivered directly to (and possibly ordered through) the FSU Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR) facility, which also provides basic animal maintenance and veterinary services to the NHMFL, from an approved list of licensed animal research vendors. In addition, any person performing research also will be required to follow basic laboratory safety procedures in accordance with the NHMFL safety guide.