

**Office of the Vice-President Research**

**Scientific Merit Review Committee for Animal-Based Research**

**Scientific Merit Review Form for Principal Investigators**

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), which oversees animal use for research, teaching and testing, requires that animal-based research projects receive scientific merit peer review prior to its approval by an Animal Care Committee. Animal Use Protocols (AUPs) associated with approved funding from peer-reviewed funding sources satisfy the scientific merit review requirement. All other AUPs require an independent peer review for scientific merit prior to or in parallel with an ethical review.

Scientific merit review must occur independent from the University Animal Care Committee (UACC) Animal Research Ethics Board (AREB); hence, the University of Saskatchewan Scientific Merit Review Committee for Animal-Based Research (SMRCABR) under the Office of Vice-President Research (OVPR) is tasked with this review.

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| **CONFIDENTIAL - Animal Care and Research Support (ACRS) Staff Use Only** |
| **Submission Date:** | Select date | **Revision Date:**  | Select date | **Revision Number** |       |
| **SMRCABR Approval Date:** | Select date |

**Complete the form below (maximum of 2-4 pages) and submit the form with the associated**

**Animal Use Protocol (AUP)** **by e-mail to** **uacc.office@usask.ca.**

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| Section 1 – Summary Information  |
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| **AUP #****(if known)** |       | **AUP Title:** |       |
| **Project Principal Investigator** | Last Name | First Name |
| **Email** |       | **Phone Number:** |       |

1. **Provide a scientific summary of the project (300 words, maximum).**

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| Section 2 – Research Project Information |

1. **Hypothesis: What is your research hypothesis(es)? Include preliminary data if applicable.**

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1. **Research objectives: Describe your experimental objectives and including a brief rationale for each.**

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1. **Research Design and Methodology: Describe your experimental design and animal-based methods. What will be your experimental approach for each objective?**

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1. **Statistics: Provide the number of animals needed for this project and within each experimental group (sample size), and describe the statistical data analysis (what are the outcome variables, what is the expected difference between groups, etc.). The proposed plan for data analysis must be capable of addressing the stated research question. Please provide a justification in the case where study data will not be statistically analyzed.**

**Attach figures relevant to the project, if necessary, and a table to make your statistical calculation more explicit according to the groups of animals.**

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1. **Significance and Potential Contributions: What will be the impact and/or scientific importance of this project?**

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| Section 3 – References |

1. **Attach all up-to-date references.**

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**IMPORTANT!** If you do not receive a reply from the Animal Care and Research Support team within seven (7) business days following submission of this form, please call 306-966-4126 or email uacc.office@usask.ca.