

NIDCD DIR Review of New Animal Study Proposals for Research Using Nonhuman Primates (NHP)

Background

In order to ensure that new research projects involving nonhuman primates (NHPs) are held to the most rigorous level of review with respect to scientific merit and species selection, effective March 1, 2018, an additional review step will be in place for all **new** NINDS Animal Study Proposals (ASPs) involving NHPs. ASP amendments that significantly alter the course of the research will also be subject to this additional review step.

There are two mechanisms to accomplish this review. The first is review by the Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC). Investigators describe their future projects as part of their presentation to the BSC. When new work using NHP is proposed, the BSC will be asked to evaluate the species justification in addition to the scientific merit.

If an investigator submits a new ASP/amendment using NHP describing work that was not reviewed by the BSC, the second review mechanism will be used. Before the ASP is submitted to the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC), it will be reviewed by an ad hoc NIDCD Nonhuman Primate Research Review Committee (NHPRRC), convened by the NIDCD Office of the Scientific Director (OSD). The NHPRRC will be composed of 3 reviewers, at least two of whom will be experts from outside the NIDCD Intramural Research Program (IRP). The NHPRRC will review the ASP with respect to the following criteria:

- a) The proposed research is scientifically significant and expected to provide knowledge that will improve human and/or animal health;
- b) The proposed experiments are well designed to address the research questions;
- c) The rationale for the use of both animals and NHPs is strong; and
- d) The ASP clearly addresses points a-c above.

Procedure:

1. When a NIDCD Intramural Principal Investigator (PI) proposes a *new* project involving NHPs submits an ASP/amendment, it will be routed to the OSD for review and endorsement before the ASP is sent to the ACUC.
2. The NIDCD OSD will either convene a NHPRRC or distribute copies of the ASP electronically for review and comment.
3. The NHPRRC members will complete the Nonhuman Primate ASP Review Form and return to the OSD.
4. The NIDCD OSD will “Endorse” or “Not Endorse” the ASP and communicate this decision to the submitting PI and the NINDS/NIDCD/NCCIH ACUC office.
5. If the ASP is “Endorsed”, it will be reviewed by the ACUC with accompanying signed review forms. If not endorsed, the PI may address concerns raised by the NIDCD NHPRRC or OSD and resubmit the ASP to the NHPRRC.

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Approved 10/01/2019