





Scientific Peer Review for animal care protocol approvals

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What's the issue?

Why should addressing peer review be a priority?

- Increasing Industry-initiated research
- >Increasing entrepreneurship by researchers
- ➤ It is pivotal to the credibility of every element in our CCAC-based system





What's the issue?

First principles:

ACC Approvals process involves balancing:

COST (ethical, 3Rs... ACC)

Vs

BENEFIT (scientific, human, animal... peer review)





Role of ACCs in Peer Review

Terms of reference?

Expertise?

Membership?

...credibility?





Impact of ACC peer review

- >A possibly-true story...
- >Firefighters fund burn research
- Local academic clinician/departmental/ ACC approval
- > Research didn't prosper... whistleblower
- Media event approvals process queried
- ➤ Discredited: researcher...faculty... institution...CCAC





Serious Recommendations!

➤ ACCs: Insist that evidence of peer review be presented before any protocol is approved ...but do not participate in process (conflict-of-interest issue)

➤ CCAC: (Further) develop guidelines for Institutional peer review process





CCAC Guidelines

should include:

- Arm's-length criteria (e.g. Research Administration) re: process
- ➤ Conflict-of-interest criteria
- >Internal/external reviewer criteria
- ➤ Quality-of-review criteria, e.g.:
 - > Relevance of animal model
 - >Approach/interpretability of results
 - > Benefits anticipated
 - >Investigator experience/expertise



