Pedagogical Merit Review: A Feasibility Study
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Background
The ethics of animal use for teaching and training in Canada is guided by policy set by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC). A CCAC working group was formed and identified the need for an evaluation of how education protocols that involve the use of animals are reviewed. The CCAC Guidelines Committee will use the results of the study to inform them of the status of pedagogical merit review.

Objective
The purpose of this study is to gather feedback from stakeholders on three primary topics:
1) Current CCAC guidance for pedagogical merit review
2) Current practices in place at institutions
3) Recommendations from a CCAC working group on pedagogical merit review

The study will evaluate:
1) The process of pedagogical merit review
2) The impacts of pedagogical merit review
3) The efficiencies in the pedagogical merit review process

Method
Phase One: Individual interviews to explore the topics and ideas that will be used in the survey questions for phase two
Phase Two: Online survey and focus groups to establish broad assessment of opinion and practices on pedagogical merit review
Phase Three: Delphi method to develop consensus around opinion and practices identified in previous phases

Current Policies
CCAC policy statement for: senior administrators responsible for animal care and use programs (2008), Section B.
CCAC policy statement on: terms of reference for animal care committees (2006), Section vii.

Current Guidelines
CCAC guidelines on: animal use protocol review (1997), Section 12. Teaching Protocols

Recruitment

Process Impact
1) Evidence-based guidelines development
2) Expert and knowledge user participation
3) Stakeholder balance, multidisciplinary participation
4) Multiple settings and modes of participation
5) Transparent process

Outcomes
1) Results provided to the CCAC Guidelines Committee
2) Results disseminated in a scholarly journal
3) Clarify current practices (process)
4) Clarify the relevance of changes (impact)
5) Determine the feasibility of any changes (efficiency)

Participate
Participation is ongoing for individual interviews (Phase One).
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References

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