USE OF CORE TESTING / ASSESSING SERVICES  
(IACUC-APPROVED PRACTICES)

PERFORMANCE STANDARD: Core Facilities provide a service either integral to the core staff and resources or as a performance site for other researchers.

REFERENCES:
2. PHS Policy on the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, OPRR, 1996.
3. OLAW Web Site: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/
4. AAALAC Accreditation Guidelines: http://www.aaalac.org

BACKGROUND: A service CORE is developed to provide a specific services, actions, or activities for researchers. For applicability to this policy, a CORE must be located within IACUC-approved space. This policy describes the conditions under which the CORE may be used for animal activities, including roles for participants in the CORE animal procedures. All IACUC decisions are final. The use of a CORE in options B&C (below) does not require adding PI-Managed Housing/Holding (Section T) to the PI protocol. The CORE protocol shall serve as the PI-Managed Housing/Holding activity. The CORE will provide primary oversight of all animal care, procedures, and animal disposition.

APPLICABILITY: Cores where animal-related activity occurs.

POLICY:
1. A CORE has certain inherent obligations to engage this policy. These include:
   a. Have an approved CORE protocol describing all animal-related activities that the CORE is approved to provide (either as a service or as a performance site for investigators).
   b. Develop a process to ensure that all utilization of CORE space, equipment, and/or technical support is IACUC-approved BEFORE performing any access to the CORE for animal activities.

2. IACUC-approved options for use of CORE services:
   a. Option A: CORE Provided Assessment Service (Investigators pay the CORE for select procedures):
i. **CORE OBLIGATIONS:**
   1. Perform requested assessment and return data to Investigator.
   2. Receive animals from investigator, provide care, account for, and dispose animals at the end of the study. (These animals are reported on the CORE protocol).

ii. **PI OBLIGATIONS:**
   1. Submit requests for services.
   2. Transfer the required animals to the CORE protocol.
   3. Receive and dispose of animals (if returned).

b. **Option B: CORE Provided Staff & Performance Site** *(No CORE provided assessments; CORE staff do participate as a protocol associate of the investigator's protocol):* In this case, the PI shall use core facilities, equipment, and/or technical expertise of CORE staff:

i. **CORE OBLIGATIONS:**
   1. Primary oversight of all animal care, procedures, and animal disposition.
   2. Reporting (to the IACUC) of non-compliance / unanticipated actions of investigators.
   3. The core facility will not be contracted to run any comprehensive test for the individual investigator.
   4. Core staff will only participate with animal activities if they have been added to the PI protocol as a protocol participant.

ii. **PI OBLIGATIONS:**
   1. The investigator have an approved IACUC protocol, or amendment, that includes the new procedure space, an appropriate description of the procedures that will be performed, and any additional CORE or PI personnel that will participate in the test activities.
   2. Arrange for transportation of the required animals to the CORE performance site.
   3. Perform the assessments as approved in the approved protocol.
   4. Dispose of animals at the conclusion of the studies.
   5. The investigator is responsible for all animal care, use, and adverse outcomes.
   
   **NOTE:** The CORE will provide primary oversight of all animal care, procedures, and animal disposition.
c. **Option C: CORE Provides Only a Performance Site** *(No CORE service provided; No CORE staff provided):* In this case, the PI shall use CORE facilities and equipment; without any technical expertise of CORE staff:

i. **CORE OBLIGATIONS:**
   1. Primary oversight of all animal care, procedures, and animal disposition.
   2. Reporting (to the IACUC) of non-compliance / unanticipated actions of investigators.
   3. The CORE facility personnel will not be contracted to handle animals.

ii. **PI OBLIGATIONS:**
   1. The investigator must submit an IACUC protocol, or amendment, that includes the new procedure space, an appropriate description of the procedures that will be performed, and any additional PI personnel that will participate in the test activities.
   2. Arrange for transportation of the required animals to the CORE performance site.
   3. Perform the assessments as approved in the approved protocol.
   4. Dispose of animals at the conclusion of the studies.
   5. The investigator is responsible for all animal care, use, and adverse outcomes.
   NOTE: The CORE will provide primary oversight of all animal care, procedures, and animal disposition.