

Dear Colleagues,

I write to invite the IUPS members to review and comment on the revised **International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals**, which are available online [here](#)<sup>+</sup>. Like the original 1985 **International Guiding Principles**, these Principles should be used by the international scientific community to guide the responsible use of vertebrate animals in scientific and/or educational activities. They are designed to assist ethics committees, animal care committees, organizations, societies, and countries in developing programs for the humane care and use of animals in research and education, especially those entities operating without federal or national regulations.

The authors of the revised Principles are an ad hoc committee (see membership list below) representing several countries and professional societies identified by the **International Council Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)** and the **Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)**, the authors of the original 1985 International Guiding Principles. [CIOMS](#), an international nongovernmental organization representative of the biomedical community, is ideally suited to co-author the revision with [ICLAS](#), an international nongovernmental organization representative of the laboratory animal community. The 1985 International Guiding Principles are available [online](#)<sup>^</sup>.

This ad hoc committee began by collecting Statements, Guidance, and Principles regarding the humane care and use of animals in research, testing, and/or teaching from 33 national and/or professional societies\*. These documents as well as current best practices were then compared to the 1985 International Guiding Principles by experts in laboratory animal care programs. Discussion about what to carry forward, what to delete, and new items to include followed and resulted in the revised 2011 **International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research**

## **Involving Animals.**

### **Topics included in the 2011 International Guiding Principles**

Contribution of animals to the advancement of knowledge

Care and responsibility for animals

3Rs

Appropriate models and justification of use

Environment, husbandry, and management

Veterinary care

Training of personnel

Alleviation of pain and distress

Humane endpoints

Oversight and harm-benefit analysis

### **Issues to consider when reviewing the 2011 International Guiding Principles:**

- Do the revised Guidelines provide a foundation for the future?
- Review of the content – what's missing?
- Are they achievable and culturally sensitive for developing countries?
- Do they facilitate science while enhancing animal welfare?

### **Dissemination of the 2011 International Guiding Principles:**

You are encouraged to forward this communiqué and request for comments to colleagues, research institutes, scientific societies, educational institutions, and listservs in as many countries as possible.

### **Submitting comments on the 2011 International Guiding Principles:**

Comments may be submitted electronically through the [website](#)<sup>+</sup> or via email to [CIOMS@msu.edu](mailto:CIOMS@msu.edu) .

*The closing date for submission of comments is 1 July 2011.*

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Haywood, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Committee to Revise the International Guiding Principles

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+Revised Principles website [ora.msu.edu/ICLAS/index.html](http://ora.msu.edu/ICLAS/index.html)

^1985 Principles:

[www.cioms.ch/publications/guidelines/1985\\_texts\\_of\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.cioms.ch/publications/guidelines/1985_texts_of_guidelines.htm).

\*Click [here](#) to request this compilation of documents or send an email to [CIOMS@msu.edu](mailto:CIOMS@msu.edu) .