



**Scientific Merit Review for Animal Care and Use in Research
Instructions for Research Administrators Responsible for
Scientific Merit Review of Animal-based Research**

The Vice-President (Research) office, in collaboration with the Animal Care Committee, has delegated to the Deans and Associate Deans (Research) the process of internal scientific merit review for animal research protocols.

As noted in the CCAC Policy statement on: scientific merit and ethical review of animal-based research, animal use in research must only be undertaken if expert, independent opinion has attested to the probable scientific value of the research within its field. Animal-based work can then proceed only if an institutional animal care committee (ACC) finds the use of animals acceptable ethically and in practice: the proposed animal-based methods should be appropriate for the work and meet institutional and CCAC guidance and standards. Animal use for research purposes must consequently be subject to two levels of review:

1. An independent, expert peer review of the scientific merit of the research program or project.
2. A review by the ACC of whether the proposed animal use, as described within an animal use protocol, is acceptable, and whether the proposed animal-based methods are appropriate.

The majority of protocols processed by the Animal Care Committee has already undergone appropriate scientific merit review either by the Tri-Agency, another major granting agency, or through one of Memorial's internal granting competitions. Very few protocols – only one or two a year – do not fall into one of these categories and require a separate internally-driven process.

Upon receiving an application for Scientific Merit Review of Animal-based Research, please:

- A. Secure two reviewers for each project. Researchers will provide names of four possible reviewers; however, Research Administrators ultimately choose and contact appropriate reviewers, who can be Memorial faculty or from other institutions.
- B. Ensure that researchers receive, and satisfactorily answer any questions from reviewers.
- C. Provide the results of the scientific merit review to:
 - i. The researcher
 - ii. The Animal Care Committee coordinator
 - iii. The office of the VP (Research)

Please address any questions on the process of Scientific Merit Review to the Coordinator of the Animal Care Committee at ambakwe@mun.ca, who will contact the appropriate person for a response.