



November 7, 2022

To: Addressees

From: Acting Deputy Director for Intramural Research

Subject: NIH-Wide Policy on the Purchase of Custom Antibodies (Revised)

As described in [NIH MC 6307-3](#), custom antibodies can only be purchased from a vendor that has an approved PHS Animal Welfare Assurance.

Research involving animals is highly regulated to ensure the highest standards of welfare and humane use. It is important that all IRP staff comply with Federal laws, regulations, and policies related to the use of animals and animal products, such as the purchase of customized antibodies (e.g., serum, purified or monoclonal). The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) considers the generation of custom antibodies to be an activity covered by the Public Health Service Policy. Antibodies are considered *customized* if produced using antigen(s) provided by an NIH investigator or at the request of an NIH investigator (i.e., not purchased as a pre-made catalogue item off-the-shelf).

The purchase of custom antibodies with a purchase card or other simplified acquisition method without the IC Animal Care and Use Committee's involvement is permitted as long as the vendor has an approved PHS Animal Welfare Assurance. A vendor's PHS Animal Welfare Assurance status can be verified on the OLAW website:

<https://olaw.nih.gov/assured/app/index.html>. If the vendor is not listed, further assistance can be provided by contacting the IC Intramural Administrative Officer, the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use (secoacu@nih.gov; 301-496-5424), or the OLAW Division of Assurances (olawda@mail.nih.gov; 301-451-5672).

Please direct questions or comments regarding this memorandum to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nina F. Schor".

Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D.

Addressees:

IC Scientific Directors
IC Animal Program Directors
IC ACUC Chairpersons
NIH Intramural Principal Investigators