



April 5, 2012

TO: Addressees

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research

SUBJECT: Policy on the Purchase of Custom Antibodies - REVISED

Custom antibodies must be purchased from a vendor that has an active PHS Assurance.

The care and use of animals in research is highly regulated to ensure their 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 (serum, purified or monoclonal). As such, our federal regulatory oversight entity, the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), considers the generation of custom antibodies to be an activity covered by 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 catalog item off-the-shelf).

The purchase of custom antibodies with a credit card or other simplified acquisition mechanism without your IC's Animal Care and Use Committee involvement is permitted. A vendor's PHS Assurance status can be verified on the OLAW website: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>, under "OLAW Fast Facts; Assured Institutions". If the vendor is not listed on the OLAW website, further assistance can be provided by contacting your IC Intramural Administrative Officer or the NIH intramural Office of Animal Care and Use: secoacu@od.nih.gov; 301-496-5424. Additionally, a list of commonly used, assured commercial vendors is enclosed with this memo.

Please direct questions or comments regarding the intent or contents of this memorandum to your IC Intramural Administrative Officer or to the NIH intramural Office of Animal Care and Use.

Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Enclosure

Addressees:

IC Directors and Scientific Directors

IC Lab/Branch Chiefs

IC ACUC Members and Animal Program Directors

NIH Intramural Principal Investigators and Animal Users

NIH Intramural Credit Card Holders and Card Approving Officials

NIH Intramural Administrative Officers