

## **ARAC Supplement to the DDIR Policy Memo: Scientific Merit Review for the Use of Nonhuman Primates**

The [DDIR Policy Memo](#) on *Scientific Merit Review (SMR) for the Use of Nonhuman Primates (NHPs)*, dated September 11, 2020, requires new Animal Study Proposals (ASPs) involving NHPs and their major modifications [as defined by the Institute/Center (IC)] be reviewed for scientific merit in addition to the review performed by the IC Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) for animal welfare-related issues. This supplement provides the following additional information and guidance related to this DDIR Policy Memo:

1. A Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) review of a study or project involving the use of NHPs is equivalent to the SMR conducted by an SMR committee for ASPs active at the time of the review.
2. A new ASP, one which was not active at the time of the Principal Investigator's last BSC review, requires an acceptable SMR rating in addition to IC ACUC approval prior to commencement of work. Note, an acceptable SMR does not replace, or guarantee, IC ACUC approval of the ASP.
3. A new ASP amendment which describes a major modification(s), as outlined below, requires an acceptable SMR rating in addition to IC ACUC approval prior to commencement of work. Although ICs may further define what major modifications require an SMR, the following are always considered major modifications requiring SMR:
  - a. A change in the NHP species to be used,
  - b. A change in the study objectives that results in a modification of the experimental design, and
  - c. An increase in the number of animals requested.
4. The IC ACUC review and SMR can occur concurrently, but final IC ACUC approval cannot be granted until the SMR committee determines the ASP or major modification possesses an acceptable level of scientific merit.

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