

**ACUC REVIEW AND APPROVAL
OF CUSTOM ANTIBODY PROCEDURES**

Revised and Approved February 2007

Background

The purpose of this document is to clarify U.S. Public Health Service and campus requirements for review and approval of projects that propose the procurement of antibodies from non-UCB sources.

Definitions and Requirements

Off-the-shelf antibodies are defined as standard reagent antibodies produced by a commercial supplier that uses its own resources and offers them for general sale, e.g., through a catalogue. For these antibodies, the supplier is not required to file an Animal Welfare Assurance (Assurance) with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), and the ACUC is not required to review and approve the project.

Custom antibodies are produced by a supplier or contractor using antigens provided by or at the request of an investigator. The following requirements apply to the purchase and use of custom antibodies by UCB Principal Investigators (PIs):

1. The supplier must have an approved Assurance on file with NIH-OLAW.
2. Prior to ordering a custom antibody, the PI must contact the ACUC, where staff will verify that the proposed supplier has an approved Assurance on file with NIH-OLAW. Alternately, a list of approved vendors may be found at the following website: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/assurance/300index.htm>
3. When ordering custom antibodies, the PI must obtain the supplier's Assurance number and request written approval for the project from the supplier's IACUC. A copy of this approval should be forwarded to the UCB ACUC office.
4. When submitting a PHS Grant application that proposes the use of custom antibodies the PI must ensure the face page lists:
 - "Yes" for vertebrate animal involvement
 - The approval date of the PI's project with the supplier.
 - UCB's Assurance number A3084-01.
5. PIs should notify the ACUC whenever their students file graduate theses that involve the use of custom antibodies so the ACUC can ensure the Graduate Division receives the written certification it requires.