Policy # AW-05-2011

Policy Title: Use of Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds in Animals

Policy: The use of pharmaceutical-grade compounds and other substances ensures that toxic or unwanted side effects are not introduced into studies conducted with experimental animals. The use of non-pharmaceutical grade compounds in animals should only occur after specific review and approval by the IACUC for reasons such as scientific necessity or non-availability of an acceptable veterinary or human pharmaceutical-grade product. Cost savings alone is not a justification for using non-pharmaceutical-grade compounds in animals. Although the potential animal welfare consequences of complications are less evident in non-survival studies, the scientific issues remain the same and the principles and need for professional judgment outlined above still apply.

When the use of non-pharmaceutical grade compounds is proposed, consideration should be given to the grade, purity, sterility, pH, pyrogenicity, osmolality, stability, site and route of administration, formulation, compatibility, and pharmacokinetics of the chemical or substance to be administered, as well as animal welfare and scientific issues relating to its use.

The PI is expected to describe the use of non-pharmaceutical grade compounds, including scientific justification and preparation, handling and storage, in the protocol.