



Case 2: Amending the Protocol?

You are a new faculty member, at University X, which is in a different state from University Y where you recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship. Your senior faculty mentor meets with you to discuss your research work. Your mentor suggests a new series of experiments that will hopefully clear up a problem you have encountered. The new series of experiments involves surgical manipulations. However, your IACUC protocol for the project did not include any potential surgical procedures. You note that there will need to be a delay before starting the new experiments, while you submit an amended protocol. Your mentor advises says that he wouldn't want you to go through the trouble of an amended application if the technique is not going to be useful. He suggests that you first try a few experiments and, if the procedure looks like it is going to work and you will continue performing it, you can submit an amended protocol at that time.

- What do you do?
- And why?



Case 2 Variations: Amending the Protocol

After a discussion of the first version, you can offer the following variations to help the discussion participants appreciate the issues.

- The situation is the same, but instead of junior faculty member and senior mentor, the situation occurs between a graduate student and his/her thesis advisor.
- Rather than suggesting going forward with the surgical procedure without submitting an amended protocol, the advisor suggests finding a researcher at another institution with an IACUC more likely to approve the procedure.