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One Year Later: Building a Regional IACUC Administrators Networking Group
Alison D. Pohl, UConn Health; Toni K. O’Connell, Pfizer, Inc.

Problem Statement:
Whether you’re from a large institution or small institution, we all share the challenges of managing a compliant and functional IACUC. In your IACUC office there may only be you and one other person managing protocols, grant congruency, facility inspections, program reviews, teaching, and training, and you ask yourself - is there a better way to manage the IACUC program? Conferences, webinars, and reference books provide a wealth of information, but still there is an unmet need to interact with IACUC administrator peers who live and work in your area. Opportunities to network and share best practices are out there, but they require initiative and genuine interest in bringing IACUC administrators across multiple institutions together; that’s exactly why the Connecticut IACUC Networking Group came into existence. Our poster will highlight our journey in this endeavor and the benefits which we have already experienced as a group.

Description of the research:
Primarily through PRIM&R’s CPIA certification program and OLAW assured institution list, the founding members of the CT IACUC Networking Group contacted individuals to invite them to its inaugural meeting. The first meeting was well attended by IACUC administrators from across Connecticut and the word began to spread. By the second meeting, IACUC administrators from Rhode Island and Massachusetts had joined our networking group. During 2018, the CT IACUC Networking Group mailing list grew from 18 members to 42 members within an eight month period. Administrators across southern New England have enjoyed the quarterly meetings discussing everything IACUC as well as attending the guest speaker series held at Pfizer, Inc. in Groton, CT, and UConn Health in Farmington, CT. Feedback from our members has been positive and interest in hosting one of our quarterly meetings at their institution home site has been offered. From our experience creating this networking group of IACUC administrators, members have another level of support and resources to help them at their individual institutions. Our mission is to help other IACUC administrators develop their own networking group and obtain the same benefits that we have.