TEXT REVIEW and EVALUATION of AMAZING and TEDIOUS STUDIES (TREATS)

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INTRODUCTION
TREATS - A PROTOCOL REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT TOOL SYNCHRONIZING REVIEWS, REVIEWERS, AND DEVELOPERS

Problem: Inconsistency in review is the primary complaint by our Principal Investigators.

Solution: In response, the Vanderbilt Office of Animal Welfare Assurance (OAWA) created a consolidated protocol review guidance tool. This text-based resource improves efficiency, consistency, and communication.

Program Background
- Includes 700+ protocols and 400+ Principal Investigators
- Multiple species (30+) are represented
- Reviewers (20+) are comprised of: scientists, veterinarians, veterinary residents, and compliance staff
- Review guidance from: IACUC, veterinarians, regulatory inspections, Environmental Health and Safety, Occupational Health, and compliance office

Problem: Inconsistent Protocol Reviews
- Lack of Clarity
- Miscommunication
- Redundant Discussion
- Fatigue
- Frustration
- Training Disparity
- Differing Regulatory Interpretations
- Information Overload
- Dependence upon Institutional Memory

HERDING CATS!

PRESENTATION
The TREATS review guide and our electronic protocol application have an identical organization and appearance. The consistent views promote user acceptance, utility, and minimizes training requirements.

PRESENTATION

Step 1. View in TREATS

Step 2. Use hyperlinks to navigate to desired section

Step 3. Click bullets "•" to open desired text for Discussion or Guidance

CONCLUSION
Having a clear and simple resource of protocol review guidance reduces repeated topic assessment and informs conversations when guidance changes. Protocol development and review mandates a collaborative environment. Communication tools bridging program groups, such as TREATS, can make this collective effort more manageable.

Results
- A searchable, secure, and sustainable reference tool compiling guidance from all institutional sources
- Less dependence on memory and personalities
- More valuable feedback for protocol software developers

Features
- One single review guidance document
- Pertinent content sourced from established meeting minutes
- Provides search function by keyword or hyperlink
- Collapsible text aids navigation and provides information as needed
- Minimal cost for implementation, maintenance, and training
- Utilizes existing resources with commercially available software supported by the institution
- TREATS content is highly flexible and adaptable
- Provides decision tracking in an evolving regulatory climate

Future Directions
- TREATS can readily grow to include additional sources including regulatory updates
- Access and scope can be expanded to accommodate additional training or groups

CATS HERDED!

Acknowledgements: Printha McCallum, MBA, Sr. Program Manager, Animal Care and Use Program.; Daphne Molnar, EdD, MBA, CPIA, Sr. Learning Consultant, VUMC Learning & Development, Human Resources; Elizabeth Merritt, DVM, MPVM, Senior Regulatory Veterinarian, Office of Animal Welfare Assurance

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