IACUC Office: Facilitation Program: Process to Dramatically Reduce Review Times for Three-Year Protocol Renewals

As a major component of the transition to the new eIACUC solution, protocols approved in the previous system were manually migrated administratively. The original intent of this process was to ease the burden of the transition away from investigators and their research teams and onto research administration. However, an unintended consequence of this effort has been that subsequent three-year renewal of migrated protocols is (on average) overly burdensome, time consuming and difficult.

In light of this added burden, the IACUC office launched the "Facilitation" program in June of 2019.Under this program the IACUC office facilitation team performs a pre-review of the existing protocol and works with the PI prior to renewal submission in order to facilitate conversion to the new software solution and address any potential concerns. Figure 1 below shows the results from this program to date in average review times. Table 1 shows the percent reduction in time across each step, and in total.
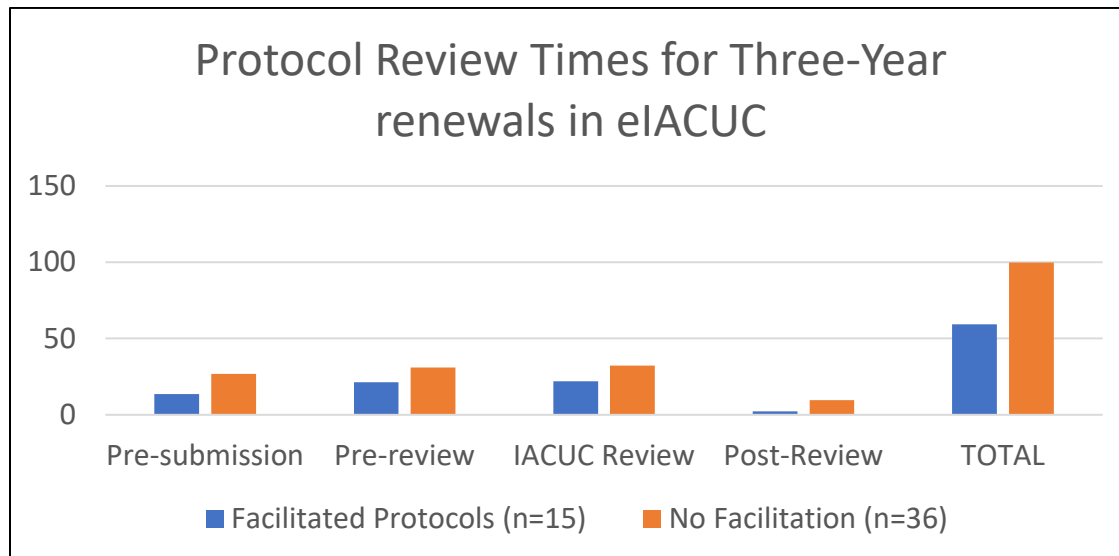

Figure 1: Average review time (in calendar days) for three-year renewals of protocols in the eIACUC system from 6/1/19-12/31/19. Note that all protocols were originally approved in the archival system and were migrated into eIACUC administratively. Bars in blue represent those protocols that were submitted under the IACUC office "Facilitation" Program. Bars in orange represent those protocols that were submitted by PI's not participating in Facilitation.

Stage	Average time (Facilitation)	Average time (No Facilitation)	% Reduction
Pre-submission	13.5	26.8	50
Pre-Review	21.4	31.1	31
IACUC Review	22	32.2	32
Post review	2.3	9.7	77
TOTAL	**59.4**	**99.8**	**40**

NEXT STEPS:

Investigators interested in participating in the process or wishing more information should contact Tekla Smith (tdsmit2@emory.edu) or Dr. David Martin (dwmarti@emory.edu)