Indirect Cost Return Policy
Last Revision: March 2014

The UC Davis indirect cost return (ICR) program is an incentive-based program and, as such, the One Health Institute (OHI) has tailored its ICR policy to facilitate the incentivizing of investigators who wish to collaborate, contribute and participate in the achievement of the mission of the OHI:

Working at the interface of animals, people and the environment
to solve complex problems that impact health and conservation.

UC Davis states that the purpose of its ICR program is “to recognize and encourage principal investigators who are successful in the competition for extramural funding.” The OHI believes that it is important for the campus community to recognize and reward extramurally supported research efforts. Investigators who request to submit and administer their proposals through the OHI do so primarily because their proposed work aligns best with the mission of the OHI; they are collaborating with other OHI faculty and staff; and they appreciate the excellent and efficient support provided by the OHI administrative staff. Similarly, in deciding whether the OHI can accommodate the administration of a proposing investigator’s extramurally-funded research, the OHI looks first at whether the research fits the mission of the Institute, second at the operational functionality of the proposal to decide if its scope and scale are feasible within the OHI and synergistic with other ongoing activities, and third at the other administrative options available to the proposing investigator at UC Davis.

Just as individuals are intended to be incentivized to secure extramural funding by the overarching ICR program, it is clear that the administering units (Departments, Institutes, Centers, etc.) are being encouraged to be successful in extramural funding competitions. However, the OHI will not compete with other units within the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) for the administration of extramural funds. Therefore, with this policy, we aim for consistency with other units’ ICR policies and will continually review this policy in conjunction with those of its fellow units in the SVM to ensure that the incentives it extends to investigators are both consistent with and support the goals of the Institute and that they do not incentivize investigators to comparison shop across units. Investigators choosing to utilize the OHI for grant administrations are doing so to carry out the mission and vision of the Institute. Historically, ICR monies have been calculated by the SVM for the July 1-June 30 fiscal year and transferred to units in the final calendar quarter of the subsequent year (Oct-Dec). In 2013, 2014, and 2015, after SVM taxes and fees, the School transferred approximately 15% of unit-generated ICR to the OHI. Due to the timing of transfer and calculation, the OHI budgets ICR expenditures for the calendar year following the transfer of funds, as opposed to budgeting for the University fiscal year.
The current policy of the OHI is that the ICR received from the SVM will be allocated according to and in order of the shared priorities of the unit as follows:

1. Administrative costs, primarily comprised of salaries, but also inclusive of general operating costs (e.g. computers, printing, telephones, unsponsored essential travel and entertainment, etc.) and, if possible, a prudent reserve of approximately 10% for staffing cost increases based on OHI budget and forecast;
2. Security of the foundation of on-going core programs, also primarily comprised of salaries;
3. Investments in new initiatives arising from OHI Active Members and approved by the OHI Leadership Team;
4. Individual requests from ICR-generating Active Members for bridging previously OHI facilitated activities; and finally,
5. Individual requests for bridging or initiatives from other OHI members.

In all cases, the process of ICR allocation will be as transparent as possible. Emergency and bridging requests for ICR monies can be made to the OHI COO, and each request will be added to the monthly Leadership Team meeting agenda. Typically speaking, the Leadership Team meets on the third Thursday of each month. Requests will be considered based on demonstrated need, according to the priorities described herein, and in light of all other obligations and requests until a given year’s unallocated ICR monies are expended. Requests against a given calendar year’s ICR budget may be made beginning in December of the preceding calendar year. All members of the Leadership Team, whether present or not at a given meeting, will vote on each request. Simple majority in each vote will make each decision. In the event of a tie vote, the vote of the Executive Director of the OHI will carry the decision. The potential for emergency funding depends greatly on all the factors discussed herein.