

Executive Steering Committee Elections 2026

Nominee Name: Sarah Hebert

Current Position/Title: Quality Assurance Auditor/IACUC Chair

BioMaP-Consortium Member Organization: University of Louisiana at Lafayette

ESC Seat Applying for: Regulatory, Quality, and Policy

Please describe how your background, training, and experience would support your ability to serve in a governance role on the Executive Steering Committee.

With 23 years of experience as a Quality Assurance Auditor in the animal research industry and 9 years of service as Chair of an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), I have developed the expertise, leadership, and governance experience necessary to contribute effectively as a member of the Executive Steering Committee.

Throughout my career, I have been responsible for ensuring compliance with federal regulations, institutional policies, and ethical standards governing animal research. As a Quality Assurance Auditor, I have evaluated research programs, identified areas for improvement, and collaborated with investigators, institutional officials, and research staff to strengthen quality systems and promote a culture of compliance.

As IACUC Chair, I have led a multidisciplinary committee responsible for the ethical oversight of animal research protocols, policy development, and program review. This role has required thoughtful leadership, sound judgment, consensus-building, and the ability to balance scientific objectives with regulatory requirements and animal welfare considerations. It has also provided valuable experience in strategic decision-making, risk assessment, and organizational governance.

Together, these experiences have strengthened my ability to evaluate complex issues objectively, communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders, and make decisions that support both organizational goals and ethical responsibility. I would bring a collaborative leadership style, a commitment to integrity and transparency, and a strong understanding of governance principles to the Executive Steering Committee. I am dedicated to helping the organization maintain the highest standards of quality, compliance, and ethical oversight while supporting its long-term strategic mission.

Please describe the relevant experience, expertise, and perspective you would bring to the ESC seat you selected.

I would bring a unique combination of quality assurance, regulatory expertise, and governance experience developed over 23 years in the animal research industry and 9 years as Chair of an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

My professional experience has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of animal research programs, regulatory requirements, quality management systems, and institutional oversight. As a Quality Assurance Auditor, I have worked with researchers, veterinarians, institutional officials, and research staff to evaluate compliance, identify opportunities for continuous improvement, and strengthen research quality and integrity. This experience has given me an objective, systems-based perspective that focuses on identifying practical solutions while supporting organizational excellence.

As IACUC Chair, I have led a multidisciplinary committee responsible for protocol review, program oversight, policy development, and the ethical evaluation of animal research activities. This role has strengthened my skills in governance, consensus-building, strategic decision-making, and balancing scientific advancement with regulatory compliance and animal welfare. It has also reinforced the importance of listening to diverse perspectives and making fair, evidence-based decisions.

I would bring to the Executive Steering Committee a collaborative leadership style, a commitment to transparency and accountability, and the ability to evaluate complex issues through both a regulatory and operational lens. My perspective is grounded in supporting high-quality, ethical research while fostering continuous improvement, effective governance, and thoughtful decision-making that advances the organization's mission and serves the broader research community.