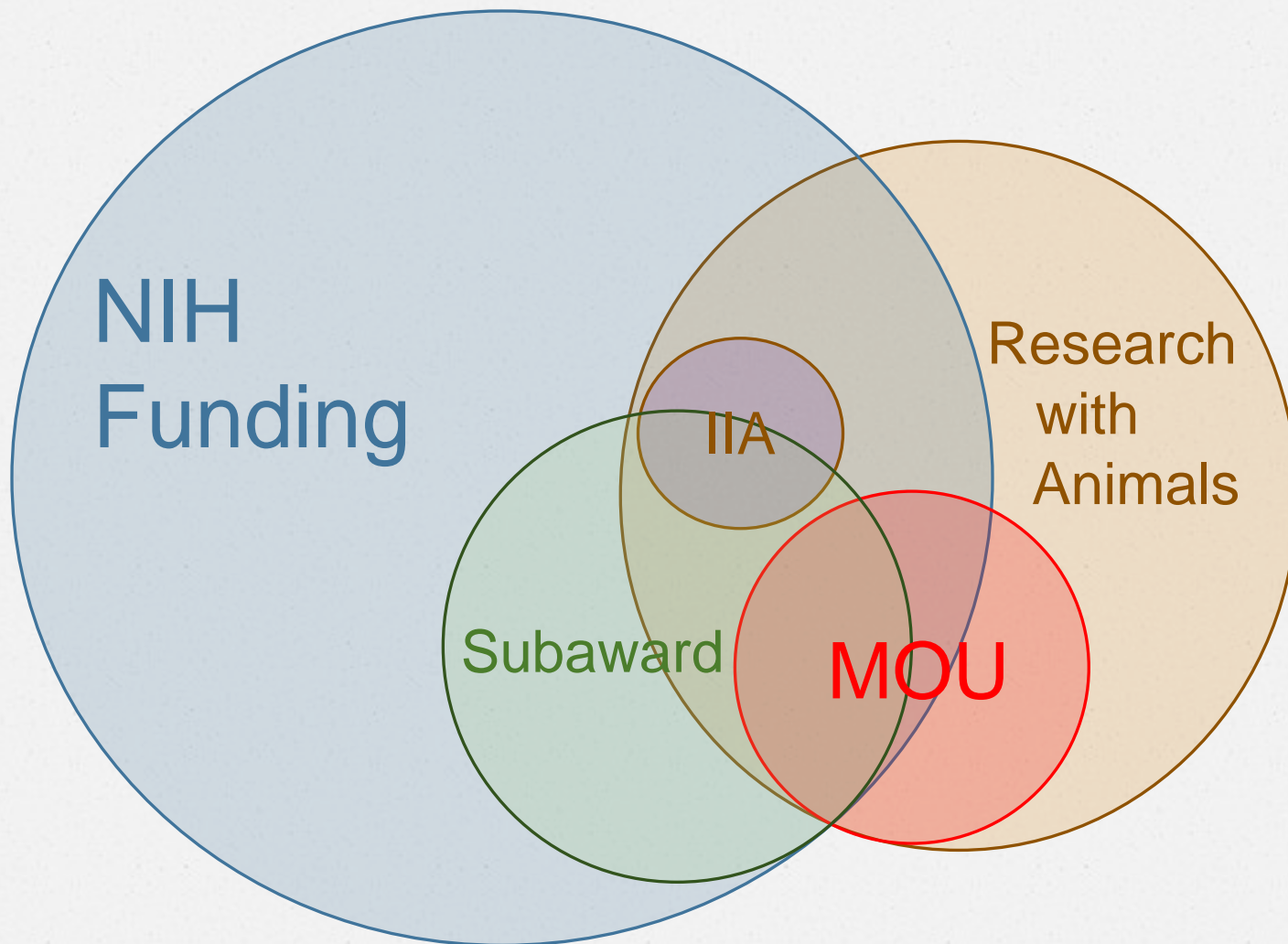


The VA's MOU Template Tool

FDP Subawards Subcommittee
IACUC MOU Working Group Call
15 June 2020
Alice Huang, PhD
Deputy for IACUC Guidance
Office of the CVMO, Department of Veterans
Affairs

	IIA	Subaward	MOU
Req'd by	OLAW	NIH	Guide
Parties	OLAW and 1° awardee with no animal program	1° awardee and other institution	Collaborating Institutions with animal programs
Funding	PHS	PHS	N/A
Applies to	Conduct of research with animals at a 2° Assured institution	Transfer of PHS funds to another institution by the 1° awardee	Collaboration related to research with animals
Focus	Commits the 1° awardee to conducting the research with animals only at the 2° Assured Institution	Document requirements for transfer of PHS funds	Coordinate efforts to share responsibilities



An **MOU** for Collaborative Animal Research

- Why?
- What should be in it?

Cast of Characters

- Dr. Newby, asst prof at Great Big U
- Joe, GBU Animal Care Technician
- The Dean of Research at GBU
- Dr. Fresch, Hometown VA investigator
- Becky, Hometown VA VMU Technician
- The Hometown VA Director
- An eager young reporter



Everyone had the best
of intentions...

So what went wrong?

Murphy's Law at Work

- Incorrect Assumptions
- Inadequate Communication
- Confusion about Role(s)

How Can an MOU Help?

- Incorrect Assumptions – **Define expectations**
- Inadequate Communication – **Identify points of contact, and matters to be communicated**
- Confusion about Role(s) – **Assign roles**

The Result ...

- Less Confusion
- More Efficiency and Cooperation
- Improved Regulatory Compliance
- **Better for Everyone**

Do You Have a Template/Sample?

- Focus: make the collaboration work
- Identify: areas of potential confusion & how to address them
- Allow: flexibility for local needs

VA's MOU Template Tool

AR2015-005 on

https://www.research.va.gov/programs/animal_research/guidance.cfm

A few VA-specific elements

– pick and choose what's useful to you

- A. Who are the parties involved in the collaboration?
- B. What's the point of the MOU?

C. What rules do the parties agree to comply with?

- USDA AWAR
- PHS Policy
- AAALAC Rules
- The Guide
- Institutional Policies

D. What general principles do the parties agree to?

- What is covered by the MOU?
- Who interprets the regulatory requirements?
- Ownership of the animals
- Access to facilities and information
- Importance of communication

E. When facilities are shared, who will take care of ...

- USDA Registration and Reporting
- PHS Assurance
- AAALAC Accreditation
- Veterinary care and routine husbandry
- Occ Health coverage

F. How will oversight be shared?

Both sides bear responsibility for protocol review and approval, semiannual evaluations, addressing non-compliance.

How will the parties make sure that ...

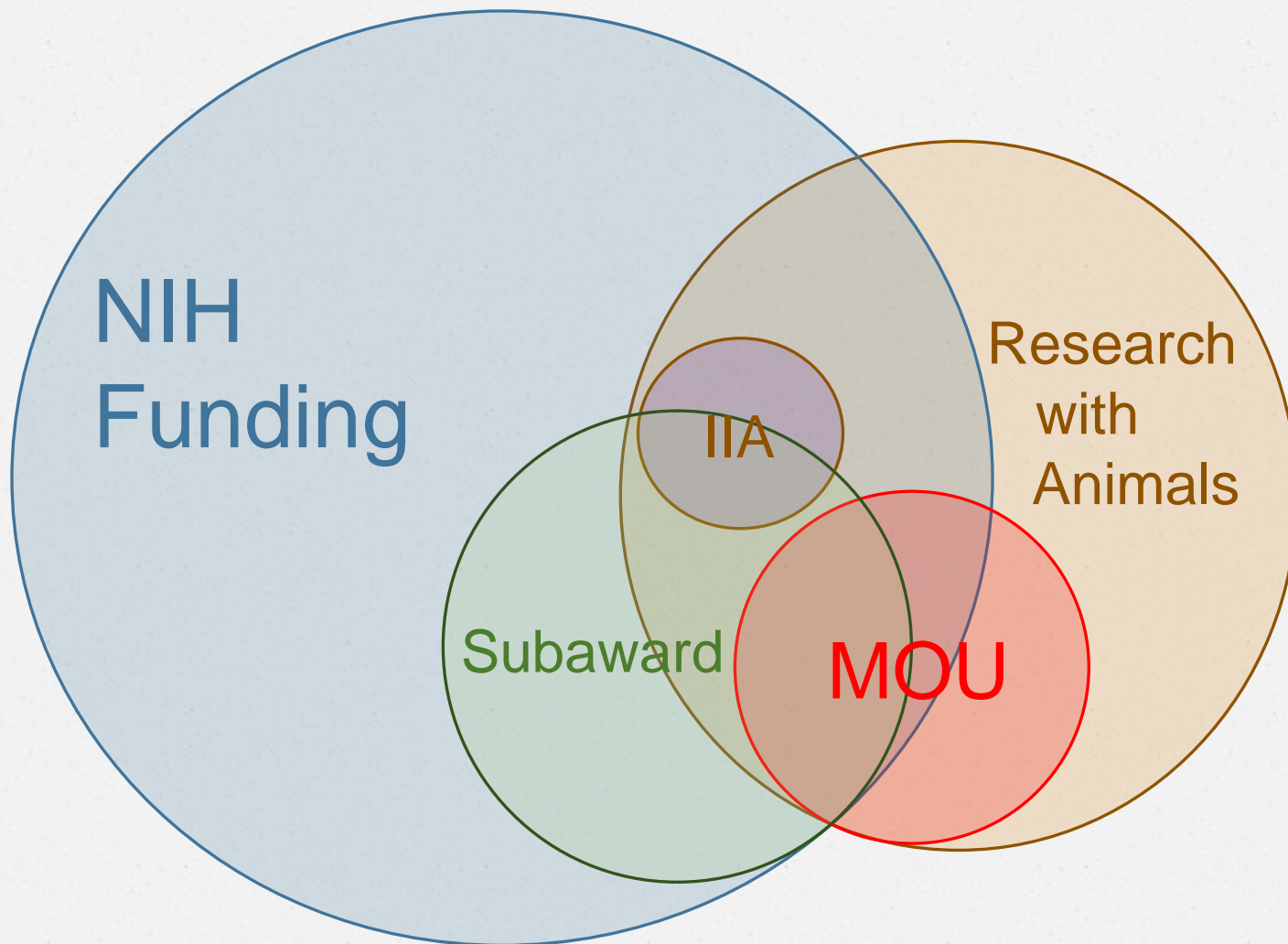
- Both stay fully informed
- Both have the authority to act
- Actions are coordinated and cooperative
- Duplication of efforts is minimized

G. What information will be shared, and how?

- Agreement to share
- Conditions for redaction
- Specific documents of interest
- Other information of interest
- Identify Points of Contact

H. How will the MOU itself be managed?

- Renewal
- Termination
- Disputes
- Signatures



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That's All!



<http://how2becool.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/0922-pf-2.jpg>