

# **Monoclonal Antibody Production**

NH&MRC advises that the ascites fluid method of monoclonal antibody production is no longer acceptable, except in rare cases where in vitro methods are shown to be unsuitable. Please refer to NH&MRC Guidelines on Monoclonal Antibody Production 2001 [www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/issues/animalethics.htm](http://www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/issues/animalethics.htm).

### **ANU Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee Policy**

1. The ANU AEEC endorses the NH&MRC Guidelines on monoclonal antibody production and requires that all production of MABs conducted at ANU complies with these guidelines.
2. Animal use is permitted for the immunisation stage and for preparation of “feeder cells” to support the in-vitro stages of MAb production.

In vitro propagation of hybridoma cells to produce MABs is the accepted method. The ascites method is not acceptable. Use of the method cannot be approved by the AEEC except under exceptional circumstances where in vitro methods of MAb production have been attempted but have been unsuccessful. Any such approval will only be given if the AEEC is convinced that methods that avoid or minimise discomfort, distress and pain have been incorporated into the design of the application.