

LUC-SSOM IACUC E-News & Updates

December 2008

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Notes from the IACUC Chair - Jawed Fareed, Ph.D.

As the year 2008 comes to a close, the Loyola IACUC is pleased to report that we are in full compliance with the USDA. The last audit visits by this agency did not find any citable issues related to our animal research compliance programs. The Loyola animal research program has also received full accreditation from AAALAC International (the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International). Needless to say, Loyola faculty members play an important role in achieving these two compliance approvals. The investigators involved in animal research provided all of the necessary information needed by AAALAC International. Some of the minor issues identified during the AAALAC inspection have already been addressed and we will strive to keep the standard of animal care at the highest level. The IACUC is also grateful to the CMF staff and the VMU facility for their valuable help in assuring the compliance and AAALAC mandates.

The IACUC has also proactively initiated programs to interact with incoming faculty and chairs' to identify their needs and to facilitate their animal related research investigations. Additional training programs and assistance have been made available through the IACUC office to facilitate submission and processing of the ACORPS from the incoming faculty and investigators. The IACUC will continue to facilitate additional interactive programs to provide timely information on the policies and procedures to optimize animal research programs.

The IACUC is thankful to Ms. Elaine Fluder former Director of Compliance who has been very helpful in streamlining some of our policies and procedures and in facilitating the harmonization of compliance issues between the IBC and the IACUC. Elaine has moved on to the IRB and Ms. Judith Blackledge has been appointed as the new Director of Compliance. The IACUC is working closely with Ms. Blackledge to identify and address compliance issues related to animal research. Ms. Blackledge will work closely with the Loyola IACUC and any relevant issues related to compliance can be directed to her at jblackledge@lumc.edu. She will also serve as an *ad hoc* member to the Loyola IACUC and will be a liaison with the IBC. She also serves in a broader role as the Director of Research, Safety and Compliance for the Stritch School of Medicine.

The IACUC is also pleased to welcome Dr. Donald Waller, professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at UIC who will serve as an *ad hoc* member to this committee for a 3 year term. He will also be instrumental in expanding our applied animal research programs and the CC Subcommittee functions. Dr. Waller is nationally known for his expertise in toxicology and will be helpful in streamlining our policies and procedures related to biologic and chemical hazards. We have also included Ms. Jen Carlson, Manager of Environmental Health and Safety for LUHS, who will serve as an *ad hoc* member for a 3 year term and contribute to the safety and compliance programs.

With the strategic research plans for our institution, several newer initiatives are being taken. Loyola IACUC along with the Hines, VA IACUC will play an important role in expanding and developing newer programs related to animal research activities in the next years. The IACUC is a peer committee composed of our dedicated faculty members who continue to provide input in its operation and the regulatory approval of the programs. Without their

Useful Links

(CTRL + click to follow link)

OLAW

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

NABR

National Association for Biomedical Research

NIH

Comparison of IACUC Protocols to Grant

TRAINING

Online Training Website

input and help, the accomplishments achieved during the year would not have been possible. Finally, the IACUC is thankful to the entire faculty and investigators who are interested in animal research for their cooperation and support in carrying out our academic missions.

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Hot Topic – AAALAC International

AAALAC International (the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International) is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. More than 700 institutions around the world have earned AAALAC International accreditation, demonstrating their commitment to responsible animal care and use. They include universities, hospitals, government agencies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, and other types of research organizations. AAALAC has been working to promote animal well-being and enhance life sciences research and education since 1965.

A letter from AAALAC International dated November 07, 2008 stated that we have been assured **FULL Accreditation**. This accreditation is good for three (3) years and we expect AAALAC International to visit our facility in 2010.

Loyola University of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine has an Animal Assurance on file with the Public Health Service under #A3117-01 approved through 02/28/2010. The Comparative Medicine Facility is also a fully AAALAC International accredited Institution (certification dated 11/07/2008).

Link: <http://www.aaalac.org/>

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IACUC and IBC

A policy whereby the Institutional Bio-safety Committee (IBC) notifies the IACUC and CMF of special precautions required when working with animals exposed to hazardous agents has been developed. The IACUC, CMF, Office of Research Compliance and Safety, and Division of Occupational and Student Health have reviewed the policies and procedures regarding inventory and disposal of chemicals, biologicals, drugs and controlled substances. These groups are revising existing policies and will submit the updated chemical material disposition guidance for review. The Director of Research Compliance and Safety has collected the numerous policies and procedures that are currently in place on our campus and has initiated a comprehensive review of current Loyola procedures related to chemical and biohazard disposition. Additional policies will be developed and implemented as required to insure that chemical and hazardous material handling, inventory and disposition meet guidelines and protect animals and staff. Once policies and procedures are developed, the IACUC will work closely with the safety committees, including the Institutional Biohazard Committee and the campus-wide Institutional Biosafety Committee, to implement compliance in this area.

The IACUC requires the PI to obtain IBC approval and/or exemption for the use of possible infectious or hazardous materials.

Before animal experiments involving the agents listed in Appendix 3 (#8.a) of the ACORP are performed, the PI in consultation with CMF will prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) designed to protect all of their laboratory personnel, the animal facility staff, as well as non-study animals. This document must be approved by the appropriate Loyola University/ Institutional Biosafety Committee and the IACUC.

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Compliance Memorandum sent to Research Personnel:

TO: Compliance update to all Principal Investigators holding currently IACUC approved ACORPS.

FROM: IACUC

DATE: June 01, 2008

All investigators with currently approved ACORPs which involve exposure or the introduction of any biological or biohazardous agent(s) to the animal must obtain review and approval of the agent(s) by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).

If the agent can be declared exempt from IBC review by the CDC and /or NIH, the PI should cite the exemption and forward it to the IBC. Approval and cataloguing of these exempt agents will be expedited by IBC Chair approval. These ACORPs and the recommendations of the IBC will be evaluated by the IACUC for final compliance approval.

All currently active ACORPs involving these agents must have IBC approval by June 30, 2008. Failure to comply will result in an Administrative Hold to be placed on the ACORP.

Please refer to the Institutional Biosafety Biohazard Policy web page (www.meddean.luc.edu/res_serv/ors/internal/biohazardpolicyors.htm) for policies and definitions.

Please note that the IBC meets every last Tuesday of each month, two weeks prior to IACUC and relevant IBC applications should be submitted in time for evaluation prior to the IACUC review.

The new IACUC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), for Biological Agents in Animals is appended below.

SOP: Biological agents in animals

All ACORPs that utilize any biological agent or toxin including viral, bacterial, fungal, microbial, botanical, recombinant products and nucleic acid must be identified and be reviewed by the IACUC Biosafety Subcommittee, and requires IBC review, directive and/or approval prior to final consideration for IACUC approval.

Investigators using biohazardous materials in animals must have demonstrated expertise and knowledge in the use of the biohazardous agent(s) and do so in compliance with federal, state and local regulations and University requirements.

Use of biohazardous material in animals is limited to that which can be safely managed within the confines, capabilities and limitations of the facility, environmental / engineering systems, and technical personnel capabilities. The CMF, IACUC, IBC and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) will prescribe these determinations. The burden of proof is with the PI and/or the above-mentioned regulatory committees to indicate the biosafety and confinement requirements associated with animal protocols by citing appropriate passages from up-to-date NIH guidelines and providing relevant reference material and essential background information regarding the biologicals at hand.

Before work can begin, the IACUC will require the researcher to include a protocol deemed acceptable to both the IBC and IACUC for management of the material that prevents exposure of themselves, their personnel, the animal care / veterinary staff and prevents release of the material to the environment.

Acknowledgement

Contributor:

Rose Buesing, BS, RLATG

The review criterion will include:

1. Clear protocols delineating the use of biohazardous agents in the laboratory to minimize the risk.
2. If infectious agents are used in the laboratory, the proximity of the laboratory to the patient care areas.
3. If any personnel handling the infectious agents is a physician or a resident who is likely to have patient contact.
4. Under these circumstances, the investigator should provide a clear and concise plan to minimize the risk.
5. The burden of adhering to these criteria is on the Principal Investigator and the members of his/ her team.

CMF limits biohazardous work in the facility to BSL-2 and before work can commence, the investigator may be required to present a seminar to the CMF staff regarding safe use and practices with animals exposed to the agent.

In all cases the staff will be informed regarding risks, risk minimization, incident and exposure response as set by CMF, IBC, OHS and IACUC.

The ACORP review process:

- All ACORPS identified as employing biological agents will require IBC approval prior to consideration for final approval by IACUC.
- The ACORP will be evaluated for biosafety concerns concomitantly with the full committee review. Specific concerns raised by the IACUC Biosafety Subcommittee will be forwarded to the investigator and IBC for clarifications and recommendations respectively.
- Investigator responses and IBC recommendations will be evaluated by both IACUC and IBC as standard monthly meeting agenda items.

Note:

The IACUC reserves the right to seek outside expertise, table or deny further action on the ACORP should the committee's queries not be adequately addressed by either the investigator's or IBC's response.

Please contact Ms. Judith Blacklidge, Director Research Compliance and Safety, if you have any questions or need further assistance at X-68112.

For technical support, please contact Ms. Kim Bergen at X- 62305.

News from the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities

November 20, 2008

NIH OBA Launches New, Improved Web Site -- The NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities has redeveloped its Web site (<http://oba.od.nih.gov>) to be more useful to investigators, IBCs, research administrators, and members of the general public. The Web site has a new look and a new architecture, which we hope will make it a pleasure to use. Please visit the new site and feel free to send any comments you may have to oba@od.nih.gov.

PLEASE NOTE: Any Internet browser "bookmarks" you may have to various pages on the OBA site will need to be recreated. Your current bookmarks may no longer work, or may cause you to be redirected to the OBA Home Page. Please peruse our site and create new bookmarks for the pages containing the information you typically access.

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PRIM&R Conference

Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) is dedicated to creating, implementing, and advancing the highest ethical standards in the conduct of research. Since 1974, PRIM&R has served the full array of individuals and organizations involved in biomedical and social science/behavioral/educational research. Members of the PRIM&R community include professionals representing human and animal research protection programs, as well as researchers, institutional officials, government personnel, subject advocates, ethicists, policy makers, pharmaceutical and biotechnology leaders, and attorneys. PRIM&R's conferences and educational events are the cornerstone of our commitment to "connecting and protecting" – connecting those who work in the fields of human and animal research, and protecting those who participate as research subjects. Through these events, PRIM&R presents an opportunity for stakeholders to come together to consider complex and challenging research issues. More than 225,000 people from around the world take advantage of the learning opportunities - including our Annual IACUC Conference series and Annual HRPP Conference series - offered by PRIM&R since 1974.

Conference attendees include researchers and research staff, institutional officials, medical professionals, government personnel, subject advocates, academics, policy makers, pharmaceutical and biotechnology leaders, and attorneys, as well as chairs, members, and staff of IRBs, IACUCs, IBCs, and ESCROs.

Upcoming Educational Events:

2009 Annual Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Conference
Pre-Conference Programs March 28–29, 2009
March 30–31, 2009
The Town and Country Resort and Convention Center
San Diego, CA
More information coming soon!

Please see link for meeting updates: <http://www.primr.org/Conferences.aspx?id=56>

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IACUC Protocol Congruent to Grant Proposal

As part of the Office of Research Services for the Health Sciences response to an OLAW letter dated March 13, 2007, a link has been added in the Portal Research Channel for IACUC reviewers and staff so that it can be determined whether information in the grant application and the protocol is congruent.

"PHS Policy and the NIH Grants Policy Statement ([Part II, Terms and Conditions](#)) require the institution to verify, before award, that the IACUC has reviewed and approved those components of grant applications and contract proposals related to the care and use of animals. There is not an explicit requirement for the IACUC to do a side-by-side comparison of an application/proposal and the IACUC protocol. However, institutions are responsible for ensuring that the information the IACUC reviews and approves is congruent with what is in the application/proposal."

Grants are now scanned into the DATA system, for easy access and comparison of Grant to ACORP.

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Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM)

Post-Approval monitoring will be implemented to assist the IACUC and PI's in maintaining compliance. Details will be sent in a separate announcement.

"Monitoring of animal care and use is required, though neither the PHS Policy nor the [Guide](#) explicitly address or require specific or separate post approval monitoring (PAM) procedures to compare the practices described in approved protocols and SOPs against the manner in which they are actually conducted.

IACUCs are charged, however, with program oversight and as such are responsible for program evaluations, reviews of protocols, reporting noncompliance, ensuring that individuals who work with animals are appropriately trained and qualified, and addressing concerns involving the care and use of animals at the institution. The veterinarian with program authority and responsibility for animal activities along with the animal care and technical staff, add another important level of program supervision.

Related components of institutional programs provide monitoring by a multi-disciplinary team of individuals. Examples of such components include daily observation of animals by trained animal care personnel and communication to the veterinary staff for follow-up, facility monitoring by facility maintenance personnel, post operative care by trained personnel, evaluation of outcomes of animal procedures by investigators and staff, hands-on training in animal procedures, and appropriate reporting of incidents involving occupational health and safety. All of these functions and responsibilities imply a level of monitoring. Ultimately the institution has flexibility in how it achieves compliance.

This is one acceptable method that institutions may elect to adopt, but it is not a federally mandated requirement. Whatever methods an institution incorporates, it is important that the authority and responsibility of the IACUC not be contravened by a PAM program, institutional compliance officials, or other mechanism established to monitor animal care and use." Loyola is now developing a PAM program with dedicated staff and assistance from IACUC members that physically monitors procedures and practices associated with animal use protocols.

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IACUC Fall 2008 Semi-Annual Inspection Report

The IACUC Fall 2008 semi-annual inspection took place in September 2008. No significant findings were reported to the IO. Thank you all for your participation.

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AVMA Guideline on Euthanasia (Formerly Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia) June 2007

Link: http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf

Please refer to this guideline when selecting and describing the euthanasia procedures in your protocol.

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IACUC ACORP Form Revision

The revised Routing Form will allow PIs to submit ACORPs without approval from their Department Chair. The IACUC approval date of an ACORP, however, requires department

chair approval to be entered in the Portal. Research cannot be started until the routing form is signed off by the chair.

Grant Administrators were added to the IACUC notification e-mails (Approval, Annual review and Termination submissions) on April 17, 2007.

The ACORP Appendices are undergoing revision.

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IACUC Training Info

Instructions for Personnel to Access the AALAS Learning Library:

1. Please go to <http://www.aalaslearninglibrary.org/>
2. On the home page, click "Enroll Now".
3. Select "Join a Group".
4. Enter the access code "loyolastitch070107".
5. Choose a username and password; please keep a record of this login for later use.
6. Enter the contact information requested. Please make sure that your e-mail address (username@lumc.edu) is correct.
7. When enrollment is complete, select Animal Care and Use Libraries (under the Libraries link).
8. Select the track (topic) which best matches your course topic.
Example: The course "Working with the IACUC" is found in the "Regulatory and IACUC Compliance" track.
9. Please note: If in the future you need to be provided with your username and password, please use the "forgot username or password?" link, which is adjacent to the login area. This utility emails you your username and password.

Please print your certificate or transcript and fax to X-69399 and/or send to us via e-mail to avalero@lumc.edu or cpaulus@lumc.edu.

Loyola IACUC requires staff to recertify every three (3) years. The Hines/NC VA IACUC requires annual re-certification.

Required levels of training:

All individuals listed on a protocol, including those without animal contact, including the PI and Co-PIs require:

- 1) Basic Training
- 2) Occupational Health.

All individuals with animal contact ALSO require:

- 3) Species Specific Training
- 4) Anesthesia/Analgesics Training where applicable
- 5) Surgical Training where applicable
- 6) Post-Procedure Care where applicable

Euthanasia experience needs to be listed in the ACORP.

Courses are under the following tracks:

Basic

The courses are under the Regulatory and IACUC Compliance track.

Working with the IACUC

Working with the IACUC: VA version

Working with the IACUC: non-VA version

Species Specific

The courses are under the Regulatory and IACUC Compliance track.

Introduction to Research Animal Methodologies

Introduction to Mice

Introduction to Rats

Introduction to Rabbits

Introduction to Guinea Pigs

Introduction to Hamsters

Introduction to Gerbils

Introduction to Dogs

Introduction to Cats

Introduction to Swine

Introduction to Nonhuman Primates

Introduction to Amphibians

Anesthesia/Analgesia

The courses are under the Animal Use Methodologies track.

Anesthesia and Analgesia

Pain Recognition and Alleviation in Laboratory Animals

Inhalation Anesthesia Systems for Rodents

Surgery I

The course is under the Animal Use Methodologies track.

Aseptic Technique for Rodent Survival Surgery

Aseptic Technique for Rodent Survival Surgery

Post-Procedure Care

The course is under the Animal Use Methodologies track.

Anesthesia and Analgesia

Post-Procedure Care of Mice and Rats in Research: Minimizing Pain and Distress

Occupational Health

The courses are under the Occupational Health & Safety track.

Nonhuman Primates Courses

Health Risks and Safety Procedures for Working with Nonhuman Primates

Video: Working Safely with Nonhuman Primates

Biosafety in Microbiologic and Biomedical Laboratories

Biosafety in Microbiologic and Biomedical Laboratories

The updated courses in the **Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine Courses** track are shown below.

Animal Care and Use Courses Library

ALAT Courses

ALAT 1: History and Purpose of Laboratory Animal Science and Animal Care Programs

ALAT 2: The Research Facility Environment

ALAT 3: An Introduction to Science

ALAT 4: Cell and Tissue Structure

ALAT 5: Organs and Organ Systems

ALAT 6: Feed and Nutrition

ALAT Review Exam (ALAT 1-6)

ALAT 7: Heredity and Breeding

ALAT 8: Laboratory Animal Environment

ALAT 9: Facility Equipment

ALAT 10: Hygiene in the Laboratory Animal Facility

ALAT 11: Animal Procurement

ALAT 12: Health and Disease
ALAT 13: Drug Therapy and Common Diseases of Laboratory Animals
ALAT 14: Euthanasia
ALAT 15: Experimental Design and Methodology
ALAT Review Exam (ALAT 7-15)
ALAT 16: Mice
ALAT 17: Rats
ALAT 18: Hamsters
ALAT 19: Guinea Pigs
ALAT 20: Gerbils
ALAT 21: Rabbits
ALAT 22: Cats
ALAT 23: Dogs
ALAT 24: Nonhuman Primates
ALAT 25: Swine
ALAT 26: Sheep/Goats
ALAT 27: Amphibians
ALAT 28: Birds
ALAT 29: Miscellaneous Laboratory Animals
ALAT Review Exam (ALAT 16-29)
ALAT Final Review Exam (ALAT 1-29)

LAT Courses

LAT 1: Public and Private Interests in Animal Research
LAT 2: Administrative Responsibilities
LAT 3: Laboratory Techniques
LAT 4: Genetics and Breeding
LAT 5: Anatomy and Physiology
LAT Review Exam (LAT 1-5)
LAT 6: Laboratory Animal Facility Equipment
LAT 7: The Laboratory Environment
LAT 8: Animal Health Maintenance
LAT 9: Health and Disease
LAT 10: Diagnostic Techniques
LAT Review Exam (LAT 6-10)
LAT 11: Aseptic Technique, Surgical Support and Anesthesia
LAT 12: Emergency Veterinary Care
LAT 13: Research Methodology
LAT 14: Calculations and Conversions
LAT Review Exam (LAT 11-14)
LAT Final Review Exam (LAT 1- 14)

Preparing for AALAS Technician Certification

Taking an AALAS Technician Certification Examination
Study Skills

US Mandates and Guidelines

Animal Welfare Act Regulations
Euthanasia of Research Animals: AVMA Guidelines
Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
Guide to the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals
Good Laboratory Practice Standards

Ethical Decision-Making in Animal Research Courses

Ethical Decision-Making in Animal Research
Ethical Case 1: Mouse in a Parasitology Experiment
Ethical Case 2: Rat with Partial Paralysis

Anesthesia and Analgesia

Pain Recognition and Alleviation in Laboratory Animals
Inhalation Anesthesia Systems for Rodents
Post-Procedure Care of Mice and Rats in Research: Minimizing Pain and Distress

Videos/CDs on Biomethodology

Video: Working With the Laboratory Dog
CD: Working with the Laboratory Dog (practice questions)

Working with the IACUC

Working with the IACUC: VA version
Working with the IACUC: non-VA version
The Semiannual Facility Inspection

Introduction to Research Animal Methodologies

Introduction to Mice
Introduction to Rats
Introduction to Rabbits
Introduction to Guinea Pigs
Introduction to Hamsters
Introduction to Gerbils
Introduction to Dogs
Introduction to Cats
Introduction to Swine
Introduction to Nonhuman Primates
Introduction to Amphibians

Essentials for IACUC Members

Essentials for IACUC Members

Nonhuman Primates Courses

Health Risks and Safety Procedures for Working with Nonhuman Primates
Video: Working Safely with Nonhuman Primates

Mouse Biomethodology Courses

Working with the Laboratory Mouse
Mouse Breeding Colony Management
Genetically Engineered Mice: Historical Perspectives
Genetically Engineered Mice: Approaches for Evaluating the Phenotype
Genetically Engineered Mice: Overview of Transgenesis and Conditional Control

Basic Metrics for the Laboratory Animal Facility

Basic Metrics for the Laboratory Animal Facility

Selection of Cage Cleaner Products - Chemistry Driven

Selection of Cage Cleaner Products - Chemistry Driven

Writing Multiple Choice Questions

Writing Multiple Choice Questions

Laboratory Animal Medicine

Introduction to Laboratory Animal Medicine

Ergonomics Courses

Introduction to Ergonomics in the Laboratory Animal Facility
Ergonomics for Animal Technicians: Working Smart

Biosafety in Microbiologic and Biomedical Laboratories

Biosafety in Microbiologic and Biomedical Laboratories

Workplace Training

Workplace Training

Communication Skills

Active Listening

Communicating with the Non-Native English Speaker

Aseptic Technique for Rodent Survival Surgery

Aseptic Technique for Rodent Survival Surgery

Time and Project Management

Time Management and Goal Setting

Team Building

Facilities, Supplies, and Materials

Maintaining Animal Procedure Areas

Syringes and Needles

Small Ruminant Anesthesia and Intra-Operative Monitoring

Small Ruminant Anesthesia and Intra-operative Monitoring

Conflict of Interest

Avoiding Financial Conflict of Interest in Federal Research

Biosecurity

Introduction to VA Biosecurity Concepts

Nutrition

Laboratory Animal Nutrition

Dog Biomethodology Courses

Working with the Laboratory Dog: The Basics

Working with the Laboratory Dog: Venous Catheterization

Working with the Laboratory Dog: Urinary Catheterization

Working with the Laboratory Dog: Endotracheal Intubation

Working with the Laboratory Dog: Injections and Blood Collection

CMAR Certification Preparation

CMAR: Preparing for the Animal Resources Exam

LATG Courses (2007 LATG Training Manual)

LATG 1: Personnel Management (2007)

LATG 2: Facility Management (2007)

LATG 3: Facility Security & Disaster Planning (2007)

LATG 4: Regulations (2007)

LATG 5: Health Surveillance & Quality Assurance (2007)

LATG 6: Occupational Health & Safety (2007)

LATG 7: Introduction to Organic Chemistry & Biochemistry (2007)

LATG 8: Molecular Biology (2007)

LATG 9: Immunology (2007)

LATG 10: Genetic Engineering (2007)

LATG 11: Gnotobiotics (2007)

LATG 12: Agents of Infectious Disease (2007)

LATG 13: Common Diseases of Laboratory Animals (2007)
LATG 14: Diagnostic Techniques (2007)
LATG 15: Pharmacology (2007)
LATG 16: Anesthesia & Analgesia (2007)
LATG 17: Experimental Design & Data Handling (2007)
LATG Final Review Exam (2007)
LATG Unit One Review Exam (/LATG 1-6 2007)
LATG Unit Two Review Exam (/LATG 7-11 2007)
LATG Unit Three and Four Review Exam (/LATG 12-17 2007)

Bloodborne Pathogens Training for Animal Research
Bloodborne Pathogens Training for Animal Research

Ferret Biomethodology
Working with the Laboratory Ferret

Working with Laboratory Zebrafish
Working with Laboratory Zebrafish

AALAS announced on November 21, 2008 two new regulatory courses that are now available on the AALAS Learning Library. Both of these courses add new resources for animal welfare training and compliance and should benefit every animal research program using the AALAS Learning Library.

Refresher: Working with the IACUC (non-VA version)

This course is designed primarily as a refresher for those who have previously completed the full version of "Working with the IACUC - non-VA version." This course highlights the sections of the protocol on which the IACUC focuses during a renewal review. In this refresher course, many of the essential points from "Working with the IACUC" are summarized without the extensive details of the full version. As a result, this course is one fifth the length of the full version and is thus ideal for refresher training of principal investigators.

Common Compliance Issues

This course focuses on why it is important for researchers and institutions to maintain compliance with institutional policies, local and federal laws and regulations, and national policies and guidelines. It describes 9 common compliance mistakes and suggestions for prevention.

You can find both courses on the AALAS Learning Library. Select the Animal Care and Use Courses Library, then the Regulatory and IACUC Compliance track, and finally the Working with the IACUC courses. To access these courses, please use our account on the AALAS Learning Library. However, anyone without an account may view the lesson titles for each course by navigating to their location.

Additional information can be found at the following website link:

http://www.meddean.luc.edu/res_serv/ors/AALASLibAccess_Courses.pdf

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Upcoming Meetings

January IACUC 101/201PLUS in Arizona

The University of Arizona and Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research

(SwAEBR) will co-sponsor IACUC 101 and IACUC 201PLUS in Tucson, AZ on January 21 and 22, 2009.

Registration forms and course information is available at url:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/iacuc101s.htm>

The program will be held at the LOEWS VENTANA CANYON RESORT. The hotel is absolutely beautiful and it is offering a special golf package to course registrants.

NOTE: At the url above, you will see the year 2009 IACUC 101 Series calendar.

We will establish dates for a 2009 fall program in Evanston/Chicago (Northwestern University) soon.

[IRB 101sm, IRB Administrator 101, and Essentials of IACUC Administration](#)

February 3–5, 2009

The Omni Houston Galleria Hotel

Houston, TX

[Learn more about PRIM&R's Regional Educational Programs.](#)

Link: <http://www.primr.org/Conferences.aspx?id=56>

Overview - IRB 101sm, IRB Administrator 101, and Essentials of IACUC Administration

Join us in Houston, TX, February 3-5 when we offer three highly acclaimed educational programs: IRB 101sm, IRB Administrator 101, and Essentials of IACUC Administration. These courses are geared specifically to meet the educational needs of the IRB/HRPP and/or IACUC member, administrator, and staff.

Registrants will have the option of selecting one or two of the three educational programs being offered.

[IRB 101sm](#)

Tuesday, February 3, 8:30 AM–4:00 PM

IRB 101sm covers the ethics, history, and federal regulations related to the conduct of biomedical and social science research on human subjects. Through a series of lectures, interactive discussions, and case studies, IRB/HRPP members, administrators, clinical investigators, and research staff will learn:

- How the federally mandated IRB system developed within the United States;
- The underlying ethical principles and procedures for reviewing research involving the protection of human subjects; and
- The key components of the regulations which govern IRB operations.

[IRB Administrator 101](#)

Wednesday, February 4, 8:30 AM–4:00 PM

Thursday, February 5, 8:30 AM–12:15 PM

IRB Administrator 101 is a 1½ day program, specifically geared toward both new administrators and those in need of a “refresher” course. Taught by two highly experienced administrators in the field, IRB Administrator 101 will include:

- Identification of the key components of human research protection programs;
- Examination of the primary responsibilities of administrators; and
- A review of the strategies and policies for developing and/or strengthening your institution’s human research protection program.

IRB Administrator 101 will highlight key administrator tasks including:

- Advising principal investigators, research staff, IRB chair and members, and institutional officials
- Managing protocol review
- Recordkeeping and reporting
- Handling allegations and complaints
- Developing policies and procedures
- Managing staff and infrastructural needs
- Serving liaison functions
- Providing/overseeing education
- Conducting quality improvement or assurance reviews
- Coordinating "off-site" administrative agreements

Essentials of IACUC Administration

Wednesday, February 4, 8:00 AM–5:30 PM

Thursday, February 5, 8:00 AM–12:45 PM

Essentials of IACUC Administration is a 1½ day program, which provides Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) administrators and support staff, as well as training and compliance personnel, with an overview of how to effectively manage an animal care and use program. This course will:

- Review the key components of an integrated program;
- Examine the primary responsibilities of administrators; and
- Discuss strategies for creating a culture that assures the humane care and use of animals while facilitating their use in research and teaching.

It is recommended that you attend IACUC 101 before taking this course.

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ALTBIB – Literature Searches

ALTBIB - Bibliography on Alternatives to the Use of Live Vertebrates in Biomedical Research and Testing.

"The intent of this bibliography is to assist in identifying methods and procedures helpful in supporting the development, testing, application, and validation of alternatives to the use of vertebrates in biomedical research and toxicology testing.

This bibliography is produced from MEDLINE database searches, performed and analyzed by subject experts from the Toxicology and Environmental Health Information Program (TEHIP) of the Specialized Information Services Division (SIS) of the National Library of Medicine (NLM)."

The key words 'Species' and 'Alternatives' must be used as search terms as part of the Literature Search.

Link: <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/altbib.html>

LITERATURE SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES WORKSHEET

Step-by-step approach to an alternatives search facilitates compliance with USDA/APHIS/AC Policy 12

- Consideration of Alternatives to Painful/Distressful Procedures

Worksheet essentials in PDF

Detailed information on Searching and Databases

This worksheet is designed to assist researchers with their literature searches, while

facilitating compliance with regulatory agencies. The search should identify any alternatives to potentially painful or distressful procedures, while also assuring that the protocol does not unnecessarily duplicate previous research.

http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/Animal_Alternatives/detailedworksheet2.html

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CompMed

ILAR J is a quarterly publication of the National Academies' Institute for Laboratory Animal Research. In response to the heavy focus on IACUC members' training, I would like to alert the community to one of the Journal's recent issues, Vol 48(2): Training and Adult Learning Strategies for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

This issue provides an update to the 1991 ILAR report 'Education and Training in the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals' focusing on contemporary methods for building or expanding institutional animal care and use programs. The information in this issue reflects the combined effort of many professionals with expertise in laboratory animal science and medicine, regulatory affairs, and education. Collectively, their diverse experience and perspectives introduce a wealth of new educational strategies, technologies, training options, assessment tools, and curricula that can be used to meet the education and training needs of the laboratory animal research committee. The issue editor is Leticia Medina.

More information on obtaining this issue can be found on the journal's website at:
<http://www.ilarjournal.com/index.html>.

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OLAW

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) provides guidance and interpretation of the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, supports educational programs, and monitors compliance with the Policy by Assured institutions and PHS funding components to ensure the humane care and use of animals in PHS-supported research, testing, and training, thereby contributing to the quality of PHS-supported activities.

LUC-SSOM IACUC has instituted the use of the OLAW incident report form presented at the March 24, 2007 PRIM&R conference which conforms to the Guidance of the OLAW Notice Number: NOT-OD-05-034; "Guidance on Prompt Reporting to OLAW under the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Link: <http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-05-034.html34.html>

PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals

New FAQs posted on OLAW website.

New Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are now posted on the OLAW website at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm>. OLAW developed the new FAQs in response to requests for guidance on these topics. The new FAQs have been added to previously posted FAQs and are marked to enable readers to quickly locate and review this new guidance. Institutions are encouraged to review OLAW FAQs and make use of this resource. To print a copy of the FAQs, use the print function located at the upper right portion of the webpage, above the search box.

OLAW accepts questions, suggestions and comments relating to the FAQs and other information posted on OLAW webpages. Communications can be directed to [OLAW help](#).

OLAW IACUC Staff Outreach is a free online seminar series to help Institutional Animal Care and Use (IACUC) staffs explore their responsibilities in the oversight of PHS-funded research that involves the use of live vertebrate animals.

<http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/e-seminars.htm>

Source for the latest news, policies, education, training, and information on animals in research

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/air>

Research Condition and Disease Categorization (RCDC) provides consistent and transparent information to the public about NIH research. With this new computer-based tool, the public will see NIH's research activities broken down into 215 categories each fiscal year. The categories cover research areas, diseases, and conditions. The new system will produce a complete list of all NIH-funded projects related to each category.

<http://rcdc.nih.gov/index.aspx>

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USDA

USDA/APHIS Inspection Report of LUC-SSOM dated October 20, 2008 showed **No non-compliance**.

“Protecting American agriculture” is the basic charge of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants. The agency improves agricultural productivity and competitiveness and contributes to the national economy and the public health. Revised USDA APHIS Animal Care Policy.

Link: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/publications/policy/policy15.pdf>

APHIS proposes requiring contingency planning for research animals

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has proposed amendments to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations that would require research facilities and other institutions to develop contingency plans for all animals regulated under the AWA to better prepare for potential disasters. The proposed amendments would require such a contingency plan to include: a list of potential emergency situations; specific tasks to be carried out in response to the identified emergencies; a chain of command and list of accountable individuals; and an explanation of the materials, resources, and training needed for such a response and recovery. Comments on the proposed amendments are due December 22, 2008.

Information: Please go to

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2008/10/awaconplan.shtml>

Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act

A Workshop

The Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

Agricultural Research Service, National Agricultural Library (NAL) has developed a one and a half day workshop for individuals who are responsible for providing or reviewing information to meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act.

The regulations require that investigators provide Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) with documentation demonstrating that alternatives to procedures that may cause more than momentary pain or distress to the animals have been considered and that activities do not unnecessarily duplicate previous experiments. A thorough literature search regarding alternatives meets this Federal mandate. An alternative is any procedure which results in the reduction in the numbers of animals used, refinement of techniques, or replacement of animals.

The objectives of the workshop are to provide:

- an overview of the Animal Welfare Act and the information requirements of the act;
- a review of the alternatives concept;
- a comprehensive introduction to NAL, AWIC, and other organizations;
- instruction on the use of existing information databases/networks; and
- on-line database searching experience.

This workshop is targeted for principal investigators, members of IACUCs, information providers, administrators of animal use programs, and veterinarians. All participants will receive a resource manual. An update of USDA, Animal Care activities will be provided by a senior veterinarian from Animal Care Headquarters in Riverdale, Maryland. An update of NIH, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare activities will be provided by a representative from the Bethesda, Maryland headquarters. Opportunities to tour the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the Agricultural Research Service's flagship research center, as well as the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center are available.

Upcoming Dates

March 11-12, 2009

May 13-14, 2009

October 28-29, 2009

Each workshop is limited to 20 persons.

To register, use the registration form

http://awic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=3&tax_level=1&tax_subject=188

or contact AWIC at Telephone (301) 504-6212, Fax (301) 504-7125, email:

awic@nal.usda.gov

or write to:

Animal Welfare Information Center
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Avenue
Room 410
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Animal Welfare Act Briefs

Interpretive Summaries

A Quick Reference of the Responsibilities & Functions of Individuals or Personnel for Research Facilities under the Animal Welfare Act:

- Responsibilities and Functions of the [Attending Veterinarian](#)

- Enhancement for [Primates](#)
- Exercise of [Dogs](#)
- [Field Research](#)
- Functions of the [Institutional Official](#)
- Functions of the [Principal Investigator](#)
- [Institutional Animal Care & Use Committees](#)
- Record Keeping for [Dealers & Exhibitors](#)
- Record Keeping for [Research Facilities](#)
- Training for Research Facility [Personnel](#)

Link: <http://www.nalusda.gov/awic/legislat/awabrief.htm>

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LAWTE

The Laboratory Animal Welfare Training Exchange (LAWTE) is an organization of people who train in and for the laboratory animal science field. By sharing ideas on methods and materials for training, our members can learn together how best to meet the training and qualification requirements of national regulations and guidelines.

Link: <http://www.lawte.org/index.htm>

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CMF News

The Comparative Medicine Facility (CMF) monitors the health of the LUC animal colonies through a sentinel animal testing program. Webster's Dictionary defines the word sentinel as "to watch over or guard". This program is used in mouse, rat, hamster, guinea pig and some rabbit colonies. Sentinel animals of at least 30-60 days of age are used in the program. In the case of the rodents, the sentinel animals are housed on bedding sampled from experimental animal cages for a minimum of 30 days. During scheduled cage changes, a sample of the soiled bedding from each of the investigator's cages is placed into a sentinel cage and sentinel animals are placed into these cages. In general there is a cage of sentinel animals for each investigator housed in the room. The sentinel cage cards are pink and are labeled "Sentinels." If there are any adventitial agents identified and confirmed in a housing room, the investigators housing animals in that room will be notified. Past sentinel testing results are available in the CMF office. We are in the process of attempting to make the test results available when the researchers select a housing room in the animal ordering process.

An approved ACORP (LU#) is issued a P/D#. The IACUC office needs the Account# from the PI or Grant Administrator for the ACORP to be issued an IACUC#. The IACUC# is needed so the approved ACORP animal information can be entered and linked to the CMF website. Once linked, PI and research staff can order animals. Please contact the IACUC office if the funding becomes available for an approved ACORP.

The IACUC requires that the PI submits an Amendment to an approved ACORP if the CMF veterinary staff recommends alternative procedure(s) to the existing protocol. The IACUC also requires that the PI submits a written report on any incident, stating all of the circumstances, related to the change of procedure. The IACUC also mandates that the PI and those listed in this ACORP undergo training for this specific procedure.

Link: http://www.meddean.luc.edu/res_serv/ors/animal/compmed/index.htm

Murine norovirus (MNV)

Murine norovirus (MNV) is a newly recognized pathogen in laboratory mice. It is an RNA virus in the *Caliciviridae* family. The virus is non-enveloped and environmentally stable. There are at least 4 strains designated as MNV-1, MNV-2, MNV-3, and MNV-4. The virus causes enteric infections and can also exit the gut to replicate in macrophages and dendritic cells in multiple organs, including mesenteric lymph node and liver. MNV is highly contagious and resistant to routine disinfection methods. Recent studies have documented a high prevalence of MNV in research mice, and MNV can be found worldwide. MNV has the capacity to spread via fomites and also by fecal-oral and, possibly, respiratory routes. Infected immunocompetent and immunodeficient mice persistently shed virus in feces.

Serologic assays using Multiplex Fluorescent Immunoassay (MFI) detect all four strains of MNV as there is good serologic cross-reactivity. Additionally, RT-PCR is a useful tool for screening due to the occurrence of prolonged fecal shedding. Target tissues for PCR testing include feces and mesenteric lymph node.

Clinical disease is limited to certain severely immunocompromised mice while the majority of both immunodeficient and immunocompetent mice display no signs of disease. It causes lethal infection in interferon α - β - γ -receptor triple knockout mice, and in RAG/Stat-1 double knockout mice accompanied with encephalitis, meningitis, vasculitis, pneumonia and hepatitis. Rag-1 KO mice did not become ill, however they were persistently infected. Immunocompetent mice seroconverted but were only transiently infected with the virus. Although studies are currently underway to assess the subclinical effects that MNV may have in mice, little data is available on whether MNV may act as a confounding factor in animal models. As a result, some programs have opted to exclude MNV from their research colonies while others have not. Because of MNV's probable effects on the systemic immune response of infected mice the decision was made to eradicate the virus from our facilities.

Discussions at the National AALAS meeting centered around eradication methods. One facility tried two different eradication methods. One room was depopulated and thoroughly cleaned prior to repopulation. (MNV can be killed on non-porous surfaces by applying 10% diluted bleach or Virkon as disinfectants.) In the other room, in which only 13% of the sentinels had positive MNV titers, selective testing was used, and MNV-positive animals were removed. Data from surveillance of the sentinel mice exposed to dirty bedding indicate that the test-and-removal method was ineffective in eliminating MNV from the room, whereas sentinel mice in the room that underwent depopulation and cleaning prior to repopulation have not shown any evidence of MNV since December 2006. The virus can be eliminated by rederiving the colony by Caesarian derivation or embryo transfer.

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Do You Have Questions or Concerns?

Jawed Fareed, IACUC Chair and staff of the IACUC (Tony Valero and Cheryl Paulus) will be happy to answer any questions from our faculty or research staff on animal research-related issues and clarify IACUC procedures. Please send us your questions and we will promptly respond.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

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