



June 2011

IACUC Newsflash

— THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH —

LEADER IN EDUCATION • PIONEER IN RESEARCH • PARTNER IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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The Livingston Road lab at The University of Pittsburgh Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology is affectionately called “the farm.”

Dear Research Community,

I am happy to report the University has once again been granted Full Accreditation from AAALAC International. This accreditation is truly a testament to your continued efforts to enhance the quality of research, teaching, and testing by promoting humane and responsible animal care and use.

In addition to the external AAALAC review, we have continued to conduct internal semi-annual reviews (SARs) as required by the USDA and PHS policy. While these reviews are conducted to assure continued compliance with government and institutional regulations, I also encourage you to ask questions and actively participate. The IACUC is here to help facilitate your research, not hamper it.

Furthermore, much can change in the six months between reviews, and it is important that you stay up to date on the latest news, updates, and changes. New, important, and relevant information is distributed electronically via a ListBot service and is also posted on the IACUC website. Please read these announcements and check the website regularly for updates. As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or comments you may have.

Last, but not least, have a safe and happy Summer!

Sincerely,

Dr. Denise Caporini

Director, IACUC and Education-Compliance

Why is AAALAC's role important to humans and animals?

What does it mean to be accredited?

Animal research programs in the United States, Europe and other countries must comply with a variety of external requirements, including regulations, policies and guidelines. In addition, many top institutions voluntarily choose to go beyond the minimums required by seeking accreditation through AAALAC International (the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care). Earning AAALAC accreditation requires institutions to conduct their own extensive internal review, as well as undergo a comprehensive, on-site assessment by AAALAC evaluators. This assessment looks at the entire animal care and use program, including animal environment and housing, veterinary care, the facilities, and the institutional policies that are in place to monitor the animal care and use program. If an institution meets AAALAC standards, it is awarded accreditation.

Once accredited, the institution must be revisited and re-evaluated once every three years in order to maintain its accredited status. Today, more than 800 universities, schools, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, hospitals and other research organizations in 34 countries (as of October 2010) have earned AAALAC accreditation—a distinction that is widely recognized throughout the international scientific community as assurance of responsible and ethical animal care and use, and quality science. AAALAC-accredited organizations should be proud that they are doing their part to raise the global benchmark for animal well-being in science.

University of Pittsburgh



Many of us take for granted the level of medical care and treatment available today. The immunizations our children receive, cures for diseases such as polio, and treatments for all types of cancer, diabetes and heart disease, allow more people than ever before to live longer and enjoy a better quality of life. The health of our pets and farm animals has also improved dramatically, as researchers have discovered vaccines for rabies, distemper, parvo virus, feline leukemia and dozens of other afflictions. Wildlife and endangered species have also been saved through research in reproduction, nutrition and toxicology. These accomplishments—improving both human and animal health—were all made possible through animal research. For some, animal research is a controversial topic. But like others in the animal welfare arena, AAALAC endorses the use of animals to advance medicine and science when there are no non-animal alternatives, and when it is done in an ethical and humane way. When animals are used, AAALAC works with institutions and researchers to serve as a bridge between progress and animal well-being. This is done through a voluntary accreditation process in which research programs demonstrate that they are not only meeting the minimums required by law, but are going the extra step to achieve excellence in animal care and use. In this way, AAALAC International is where science and responsible animal care connect.



Education and Training Opportunities

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY SYSTEM

Presented by: Carrie Iwema
HSLs Faculty Reference Librarian

Free Access to Licensed Tools, Classes, and more...

The Molecular Biology Information Service (www.hsls.pitt.edu/molbio) of the Health Science Library System (HSLs) offers many resources to support Pitt and UPMC researchers using animal models including quick access to major bioinformatics databases, software tools, experimental protocols, and videos of scientific talks.

All HSLs-supported license-based resources are available free-of-charge to users, including BIOBASE TRANSFAC, Proxeon ProteinCenter, and Ingenuity Pathway Analysis. For a complete listing of available tools visit: www.hsls.pitt.edu/molbio/licensed_tools.

A variety of hands-on workshops are also offered. The summer schedule is available at:

<http://files.hsls.pitt.edu/files/molbio/Molbio-Workshops.pdf> and all related materials are available online www.hsls.pitt.edu/molbio/tutorials.

Please contact Dr. Ansuman Chattopadhyay or Dr. Carrie Iwema with any questions or requests at:

www.hsls.pitt.edu/molbio/askmolbio.

EH&S training sessions are held in room 102 Benedum Hall starting at 9 AM on the following dates:

<u>Bloodborne Pathogens:</u>	<u>Chemical Hygiene</u>
June 8, 2011	June 15, 2011
June 21, 2011	June 28, 2011
July 6, 2011	July 13, 2011
July 19, 2011	July 26, 2011
August 3, 2011	August 10, 2011
August 16, 2011	August 23, 2011
August 31, 2011	September 7, 2011
September 13, 2011	September 20, 2011
September 28, 2011	October 5, 2011
October 11, 2011	October 18, 2011
October 26, 2011	November 2, 2011
November 8, 2011	November 15, 2011
November 23, 2011	December 13, 2011
December 6, 2011	

Dangerous Goods Shipping

August 22, October 3, November 9, June 15; 2011

The University of Pittsburgh IACUC is both mandated by federal regulations and self driven to assure the highest quality of animal care and research. To ensure this, our policy requires retraining on Animal Education Modules every three years :

Use of Laboratory Animals in Research and Education (Module 3)

Small Animals Research and Training

Large Animal Training (includes the following modules):

- Large Animal Research and Training (general)
- Species-specific modules

This training can be accessed at:

<http://cme.hs.pitt.edu>

Compliance Question & Answer

Policy (specifically that which involves animals in research) is dynamic, complex, and often controversial. As always, we encourage dialog between our offices and our investigators so that, as a community, we can remain in compliance.

During the past six months, many of you have come forward with excellent questions. Of these, we've chosen the most often asked, and provided them here- along with the answers.

Q: *I have an approval for breeding on my IACUC protocol, and am ready to start; are there any additional record keeping requirements?*

A: Yes, there is additional documentation required for breeding and weaning.

Minimal record keeping should include:

1. The species and strain designation (e.g., C57BL/6J, B6D2F1, etc.)
2. All phenotypes and genotypes
3. Breeder identification numbers (each breeding animal should have a unique identifier that is not repeated in subsequent generations)
4. Set-up date (mating date)
5. Breeder date of birth (DOB)
6. An accounting of all colony offspring including:
 - a. Animals weaned and retained for colony maintenance
 - b. Animals used for research
 - c. Culled littermates (e.g., undesired genotype)

Also, whoever weans a litter in a housing room must complete the DLAR breeding and weaning logs located on the clipboard in the room. This insures the approved animal numbers are accurately tracked on your IACUC protocol.

Q: *My research requires the use of controlled substances, but I do not have a DEA registration. Can I have a colleague purchase the drugs for me?*

A: No! University of Pittsburgh guidelines state:

All principal investigators who desire to purchase, possess, and use controlled substances (Schedule I-V) for laboratory research must register, and maintain active registration, with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Additional information can be found at:
<http://www.rcco.pitt.edu/ControlledDrugs/>



Q: *I have found a new strain of mouse available which could greatly impact my study results. The IACUC approval has just come in, how must I place the order?*

A: All animal procurement must be arranged through the Purchasing Specialist of the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR), who can be contacted via telephone (412-648-8950) or email (anorder@pitt.edu). Typically, animal purchases are initiated through DLAR's online purchasing system (see: <http://www.dlar.pitt.edu/anorder/>).

- Under no conditions can an investigator procure animals independently; as indicated above, only the DLAR is authorized to procure animals employed for research or teaching at the University of Pittsburgh.
- Prior to initiating the ordering or procurement of animals, a protocol stipulating the use of the animals must be approved by the IACUC.
- Animal orders will be processed in accordance with DLAR's Standard Operating Procedures governing animal procurement.
- If the strains are not commercially available, and the source is not on the approved vendor list found on the an order purchasing website, the animal must be obtained via import processing. This is done through DLAR import services; their contact information is:
E-mail: import@pitt.edu **Phone:** 412-648-8950

Q: *A new surgeon has just joined our team and has been added to our IACUC protocol. He has not performed the procedure before and has asked to use a small group of animals for practice. Is this OK?*

A: No work, including practice, can be done on an animal without approval. If you need to train for a certain procedure you must explicitly state this in your protocol and include the number of animals you intend to use.

Reminders



Summer Research Students and interns :

Remember that any research which involves animals must be approved by the IACUC and any research personnel involved in the work (including summer students and interns) must be trained and listed on the protocol.

Cross-Trafficking:

If you have not done so recently, please review the DLAR policy regarding bio-security. The PDF is available at:

<http://www.iacuc.pitt.edu/sop/rodentbiosecurity.pdf>

The new web-based IACUC protocol management system ARO (Animal Research On-line) is now ready for beta-testing by a broader group of investigators. Protocols entered into the system will undergo a standard IACUC review, and once approved can be modified and renewed within the ARO system. Protocols entered into ARO are valid submissions to the IACUC. For instructions on how to access and utilize ARO, contact Michael Kessler in the IACUC Office (email: kesslermc@upmc.edu; phone: 412-383-2018).

Tips



- **Avoid Quarantining IACUC e-mails**

Some investigators have reported that IACUC emails were not delivered because they were captured by the University's SPAM filtering system, Postini. To assure that you receive IACUC messages, as well as those from the DLAR and Environmental Health and Safety, you will need to add these "safe" addresses as approved senders.

- Instructions for Pitt E-Mail Users:

Log into my.pitt.edu

Click on "Spam/Virus Message Center" along the right hand side of the screen

On the top right corner of the screen click on "My Settings"

In the Junk Settings section click on "Approve Senders"

Add: IACUC@pitt.edu, DLAR@pitt.edu, and SAFETY@ehs.pitt.edu in the Approved Senders box

Click on "Update Approved Senders" to save

Updates

Michael C. Kessler has assumed the role of Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee. Questions or concerns which previously had been addressed to Dr. Ed Kennah should now be directed to Mr. Kessler. He can be reached at 412/383-2018 or kesslermc@upmc.edu.

